

has set for human conduct, to be relieved from the difficulties and hardships of life, and to be exempted from all struggle and conflict with dangerous enemies as they journeyed toward the Promised Land.

Can we detect any of these desires in our own lives? Only you and I can answer this, by opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit's searching scrutiny as He informs and sensitizes our consciences by His Word!

Paul says that these things are examples. He warns those of us who think we are immune to such temptation to beware lest we fall. After all, the Israelites didn't think they would fall, but they did!

But Paul also encourages us. He asserts that temptations toward such desires are always accompanied by God's gracious enablement to bear and resist and indeed overcome them. He says in verse 13: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

And so in verse 14 he exhorts the Corinthians (and us) to "flee from idolatry!"

How can we do this? By doing what the Israelites failed to do. By being watchful for the snares and traps of the Evil One. By maintaining a daily, living, active trust in God; i.e., by living in and through faith. And by being content with