

I Corinthians 10:13

NOT TEMPTED ABOVE YE ARE ABLE

- I. Experiencing sore trials.
 - A. "Temptation" is a proving, a trial of our integrity, virtue, and faithfulness by means of it being an enticement to sin.
 - 1. Some were tempted by the pleasures of the flesh (7,8).
 - 2. Some are tempted by the difficulties of life so they murmured (10).
 - B. The trials/temptations had "taken" (lay hold on) the new Christians.
- II. God assures by showing His sovereign control.
 - A. The first assurance is an answer to the lie of our flesh and of the devil: we are unique and not understood in our suffering.
 - 1. Satan works to isolate us from God, from Jesus, and from our fellow-saints, so we think we have it worse and are alone.
 - 2. "Common to man" is God's first answer, calling the lie a lie (the negative is emphatic).
 - B. The second assurance is "God is faithful" (II Tim. 2:13).
 - C. The third assurance is that God controls all, for He "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able."
 - 1. "With the temptation also" implies that He sovereignly gives the temptation/trial.
 - 2. The sovereign God knows exactly how much we can bear (different from how much we want).
- III. God's promise is His provision to "make a way of escape."
 - A. First, note that the Greek identifies it as THE way of escape.
 - B. God's normal provision is that He strengthens us "to bear it."
 - C. Do not despair when facing any and every trial/temptation.