

「悪を貪る」について  
— コリント人への手紙第一 10 章 6 節 —

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**ABSTRACT** Yuzuru MIURA, “‘We might not *desire evil*’ in 1 Corinthians 10:6.” Paul explains that “they (the people of Israel) were overthrown in the wilderness” because “they *desired* (ἐπεθύμησαν).” And he says this so that “we might not *desire evil* (ἐπιθυμητὰς κακῶν).” What is the meaning of the expression “to desire evil”? In order to clarify it, we need to look at LXX Numbers 11, which is considered the background to 1 Corinthians 10. Numbers 11 stresses the strong desire/craving of the Israelites in the desert to eat; this is shown by (1) *inclusio* of the words related to ἐπιθυμία in the beginning (v.4) and end (v.34) of the chapter; (2) the usage of cognate accusative (ἐπεθύμησαν ἐπιθυμίαν) in v. 4; (3) the use of πονηρός “evil” to express the people’s complaints in v. 1. Also, considering the addition of the word κακός in the usage of cognate accusative (ἐπιθυμῆι ... ἐπιθυμίας κακάς) in LXX Proverb 21:26 (“[The impious] longs for strong desires”), ἐπιθυμητὰς κακῶν in 1 Corinthians 10:6 means not “desire evil” but “desire strongly/have a strong desire.” The strong desire in Numbers 11 comes from the bottom of the hearts of the people of Israel. It must be related to the will of the people, which can be connected to their actions. Ἐπιθυμέω, ἐπιθυμία, and ἐπιθυμητής are derived from θυμός, and its cognate verb θυμῶ appears in Numbers 11 as expressing the anger by the Lord (Num 11:1, 10, 33). Human desire/craving is opposed to the Lord’s desire (1 Cor 10:5). Thus, the expression ἐπιθυμητὰς κακῶν in 1 Corinthians 10:6 can be understood to mean “desire strongly/have a strong desire.”