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10/16/11

“Aim to Please” (2)

“... We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.”
(1 Thessalonians 2:4b NIV)

Becoming like the Ultimate God-Pleaser

Romans 8:29 – “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...”

John 8:29 – “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I (*Jesus*) always do the things that are *pleasing* to him.”

Aiming to Please? Do the Opposite of These ↓

1 Corinthians 10:1-12 – (1) “I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (3) and all ate the same spiritual food, (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (5) *Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased*, for they were *overthrown* (katastrōnnymi) in the wilderness. (6) Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. (7) *Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’* (8) We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. (9) We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, (10) nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (12) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Infected by Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:7 – “Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.’”

Conversion’s Corollary

1 Thessalonians 1:9 – “For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”

Last Days Craze

2 Timothy 3:1-2, 4 – (1) “But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (2) *For people will be lovers of self*, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (4) treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*”

Key Point: The Essence of Idolatry – Intense Self Love

Response:

(1) Remain on ‘Idol-Alert’

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

(2) Don’t be Stupid

“After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them. Therefore the LORD was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, ‘Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?’” (2 Chronicles 25:14-15)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Are we expected to become more like Jesus, that as He pleased His Father, so may we? (Rom. 8:29)

Do we tend to idolatry? (Rom. 1:21-25; Col. 3:5)

What are we to do with the weights and sin (idolatry) that besets us? (Heb. 12:1; 1 John 1:9)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)