

Pastor Ron Case
11/6/11

“Aim to Please” (4)

*“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”
(2 Corinthians 5:9)*

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.”

Destroyed by Discontentment

Numbers 21:4-9 – (4) “From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. (5) And the people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.’ (6) Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. (7) And the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. (8) And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.’ (9) So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.”

Key Point: Discontentment is Venomous to My Soul

Contentment Considerations:

(1) Contentment Comes from Christ

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” (John 3:14-15)

(2) Contentment Counterbalances Circumstances

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11-13)

(3) Contentment Countermands Covetous Compulsions

“Now Absalom, David’s son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David’s son, loved her. And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. ...and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, ‘Get up! Go!’” (2 Samuel 13:1-2, 14-15)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Did the serpent play off of discontentment with Adam and Eve?

(Gen. 3:4-6)

Covetousness = what? (Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:5)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)