

Pastor Ron Case
2/19/23

“Trust Trade-off” (3)

“...We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Tragic Tendency of Trusting in Appearances

Genesis 3:6 – “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”

1 John 2:16-17 – (16) “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

Bait & Switch

Proverbs 6:24-25, 7:25-27 – (24) “To preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. (25) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes
(25) Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, (26) for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. (27) Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.”

Proverbs 23:31-32 – (31) “Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. (32) In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.”

Tips for Trusting in God instead Appearances:

(1) Take another Look

1 Samuel 16:6-7 – (6) “When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.’ (7) But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’”

Hebrews 11:24-27 – (24) “By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, (25) choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. (26) He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (27) By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”

(2) Transfer Analysis to God

Isaiah 11:2-4 – (2) “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. (3) And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.”

2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

(3) Don’t be Swindled by “Signs & Wonders”

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 – (14) “But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. (15) So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.” (NLT)

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 – (9) “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

Revelation 13:13-14 – (13) “It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, (14) and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

(This message is available for review and sharing at alivein.me)