

Relentless

Day 22



Today's Passage

"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love."

Revelation 2:2-4 NIV

Today's Thought

I agree with Billy Sunday's challenge from the past; *"More men fail through lack of purpose than lack of talent."* Why should Satan continually attack you on the main front of morality, when you are going to withstand him in this regard the majority of the time? There is a weapon far deadlier than temptation, more damaging than enticement; If Satan can rob you of your purpose, he wins on all fronts.

A Christian without purpose will not reject Christ as much as they will reject Christ's will. They would much rather substitute their service than to sit at his feet. They work dutifully, yet never make a difference. They serve, but without knowing why. The Christian life to them is a "to-do" list in which the end result is despair. You can never do enough to earn God's love; you were never meant to.

Jesus pointed to this in the Sermon on the Mount when he shared of the ones who would be cast from his presence. Their plight wasn't for inactivity. Remember their words; *"did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?"* Jesus doesn't care if you served in the preschool, served the communion, or served the meatloaf at the fellowship supper. He wants you to know him!

In today's passage we see the failure of the church in Ephesus. Outwardly we don't see a problem. The church is always clean, there are always enough people to work in VBS, attend the youth retreat, or mow the grass. What is unseen is their undoing. The whole bunch of them are serving with no purpose.

It is unclear if we can see the difference. The scripture says they never grew weary of this purposeless service. Could this be because their substitute purpose kept them going? Don't be fooled...Satan will allow you to work toward the second love if he can keep you from your first. He wants to steal your purpose, then your passion, then your potential and so on. Stop serving your second love today and relentlessly pursue your first!

Today's Prayer

Help me to identify my second love today. Refocus my life, and restore my purpose. Let me refuse to settle for the good in place of your best. More than I want to serve you Lord, I want to know you.