

Discouragement Is A Temptation

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Numbers 21:4-5, "And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."

There are many things in this life that we have to deal with. While we know that the Christian will be victorious, it is still hard to continually face the troubles of this life. We see that there are many big name preachers that say that the Christians should not ever be troubled, but here in the real world we face many temptations. Discouragement is a temptation - a temptation to give up.

When we look at the world in its sinful condition, with all the hate, wars, pollution, and ignorance of God, it is troubling.

Sure God told us that these things would happen, I know that, but at the same time I think of all the people who are lost and apart from God. Didn't Jesus give his life for them too? People, all over the world, including America, are lost. Not just the un-Christian nations, but right here in America are people as wicked as anywhere in the world. **Matthew 24:12-13**, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

It's disgusting to see so many of our political leaders try to talk about the bible and God from time to time. Most of their lives show a disdain for God and what he commands, but at times they will act like they care about righteousness. Then there is the so-called "Common Man" who supports such hypocritical leaders. Even church members will support the most evil men and women if they belong to their political party. If only they were that committed to the Lord.

There are similarities in most every church. If you took a map of the U.S. and threw a dart at it you could describe many things about the closest church to it. There would be those who are trying

their best to serve the Lord. At every service they will be there and do whatever they can to serve the Lord. Then there are those who are permanent visitors who never grow or try to do anything. They are only there as long as they are kept happy and are not bothered.

In the bible we see men of God weep as they witnessed the many who refused to obey the commands of God. Because they cared for the souls of men they were discouraged to see them live and die in sin. It is the same today as God's people want to see people turn to the Lord and be saved, but see few make the right choice. There are those, some of them former preachers, who have given up as they saw so many turn from the Lord. There is a temptation to give up when your efforts fail to bring forth fruit. However the Lord has told us to endure until the end, both for ourselves, and for those who will accept the gospel.

When a person is discouraged and tempted to give up he needs to remember that we are to remain faithful to the Lord. It is the Lord's church and it is his gospel, we are to live it and to tell the world of his love. Let us do our part, the Lord will take care of the rest.

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