

## WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

### John 3:16-18

**Introduction:** How many tragedies have occurred because someone kept putting off something, like getting the brakes fixed, or getting new tires, or going to see the doctor. Tragedies happen every day and most often they are caused by somebody's carelessness or forgetfulness. Neglect and delay are the two main causes of horrible things happening in our lives. If only somebody had paid attention, if only somebody hadn't put this or that off. If only.....

- There is another very common tragedy today caused by neglect and delay. There are millions of people who are not hardened sinners, who do not deny there is a God, who are living decent, good, productive lives, but are neglecting and delaying in making the decision to believe in Jesus Christ. Most of these people have heard about Jesus, thought about Jesus, but have put off making a positive decision for Jesus. "Not now, later, one of these days," are words heard from so many of these who are still outside of God's family. God has much to say to these people who are planning, one day, to become a Christian.

### I. PEOPLE ARE CONDEMNED WHILE THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT JESUS

1. People are not on some sort of neutral ground while they try to make up their minds for Jesus.
2. *John 3:18*
3. *Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit..."*
4. *"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me, scattereth abroad."*
5. One cannot be neither for or against Jesus Christ. If one does not believe in Jesus Christ, then that person is lost and against Christ. If you are not a Christian and spreading the Gospel, then you are a lost sinner and working against Jesus Christ.
6. If a person who has not believed in Jesus Christ dies this very moment, he/she will go straight to Hell. There is no separate, neutral place for those who intend to accept Jesus some day, but have delayed, neglected too long. If one has never made a positive stand for Jesus Christ, if one has never accepted Jesus as personal Savior, then that person is lost, condemned and on his/her way to Hell.

### II. LIFE IS MEANINGLESS AS LONG AS IT IS WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST

1. What is there to live for without Jesus in one's life? What are the lost living for right now?
  - A good time? Get everything one has always wanted? Do all the things one has always wanted to do? That is what most people are living for. Most people are missing out on that which is so wonderful - Jesus Christ and the spiritual life.

2. Many unbelievers say that they feel that their life will be restricted if they become a Christian.
  - They think that life will be come drab and tasteless if they take Jesus as their Savior.
3. There is some good news for those who feel their life will be drab and tasteless if a Christian.
  - How many unhappy Christians do you know?
  - Unbelievers don't really know what happiness is until they become a Christian.
  - No one knows true happiness until they can go to God with their problems and leave them there, assured that God will take care of them.
  - Until one has his/her heart warmed by the Holy Spirit, no one knows true comfort.
  - A person hasn't really had a thrilling experience until he/she sees his/her best friend or family member accept Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.
  - An unbeliever cannot begin to tell a Christian about happiness because he/she doesn't begin to really know what happiness is.
  - Unbelievers lie to themselves about being happy for on the inside there is an emptiness, a loneliness, a vacancy, something missing feeling but they don't know that only Jesus can take all that away and fill them with excitement and true happiness.
4. Jesus said, *"I came that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*
5. It is good that unbelievers say "I intend to become a Christian one of these days," but.....

### **III. ONE CAN'T BECOME A CHRISTIAN AT HIS/HER OWN PLEASURE**

1. God said, *"My spirit shall not always strive with man..."*
2. Jesus said, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."*
3. Jesus also said, *"No man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father..."*
4. Do you think the Lord will hear the plea of the unbeliever when he/she decides he/she wants to be saved? What makes the unbeliever believe that?
  - One can only be saved when the Holy Spirit is present and God says that the Holy Spirit will not always be around.
  - Jesus said that one can be saved only if God wants one to be saved. One can put God off too long and when God gives a person that last chance and he/she puts God off again, God will call the Holy Spirit away and that person can never be saved. Never, never, never.

### **IV. DELAY, PUTTING OFF, WAITING IS DANGEROUS**

1. One may never have another opportunity to accept Jesus Christ. How can one be sure that the Holy Spirit will come again after this moment?
  - Just because church services are scheduled every Sunday doesn't mean that you can be saved any Sunday you happen to be in services.
  - Right now may very well be the last chance you have to be saved.

- This may be the very last time the Holy Spirit will be present to stir your heart.
- Many have come to the pastor and said that they no longer feel the urge to believe, what happened?

2. The Bible says, ***"Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what the day may bring forth."***
3. Also the Bible says, ***"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."***
4. And ***"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?"***

## **V. SALVATION WAITS FOR YOU RIGHT NOW**

1. There is no reason for further delay.
  - God has been put off too long already.
  - There is no acceptable excuse for your delay.
  - This could very well be the last chance you have of being saved.
2. ***"Let him that is athirst come.. and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.."***
3. ***"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation..."***
4. ***"Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts..."***

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Now, what shall you do? It is your opportunity to accept Jesus Christ right now.
2. God has done all He can do to save you, Jesus has done all He can do to keep you out of Hell.
3. God gave His Son to die for OUR sins, my sins and your sins. He has sent the Holy Spirit to stir and convict our hearts.
4. It is your turn now. It's your decision. Stop all the delay, act right now for Jesus.
5. ***"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved..."***