

## Neglect

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by Leon Goff

According to Vine's *Dictionary of New Testament Words*, to be guilty of "**neglect**" is to be careless, not to care, to make light of, and to not give proper regard. These are the attitudes we manifest when we neglect. It is serious to be guilty of neglect in our duty toward God for this amounts to neglecting the great salvation (Heb. 2:3).

When one neglects to obey the gospel in order to become a Christian, this means he doesn't care and he makes light of this responsibility with its rewards. Does this describe your situation?

Wayward and unfaithful members sometimes neglect and procrastinate in their responsibility to repent, and pray to God for forgiveness. They should realize that when they commit such neglect they indicate carelessness and a light regard toward God and His word.

Members of the church show they regard lightly and have a "don't care" attitude when they neglect services of the church and when they habitually arrive late. Is this what you intend to signify by your actions? (Heb. 10:24-25).

When we neglect to teach our friends and neighbors the truth by which they can be saved, we infer that we do not care whether they go to heaven or hell, and we make light of the truth itself.

We could go on to make application to prayer, giving, studying the Bible, love, kindness forgiveness, etc.; but you can make the application.

Our own comforts, conveniences and desires are given first place in our lives too often and we neglect to carry out what we know to be our duty. Remember that such manifests that we are careless of, and we make light of God, His word, and His blessings. We are to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and this rules out neglect (Matt. 6:33).

There is only one way to correct this fault that many of us have. Put it out of our conduct. Excuses will not help. Matthew 22:5 and Hebrews 2:3 warn us against this seemingly innocent but deceiving evil.

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