

Waiting Too Late!

by Wayne Goff

“Yes, preacher, I’m going back to church just as soon as I get my life straightened out!” Well, dear reader, that’s about like saying “I’m going to the doctor just as soon as I get well!” You have it all backwards. The Lord’s church is a “hospital” for the spiritually ill. Sin is the culprit, *spiritual death* is the result. But before you are eternally dead, consider your spiritual condition in the light of God’s Word!

Satan’s job is to convince you to wait, to put off your decision, to hope for a better time later. When the great apostle Paul spoke to the Roman governor Felix, he replied: “*Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you*” (Acts 24:25). That was all Satan needed! He didn’t want Felix to oppose Paul, or to argue against his message. He just wanted him to wait a little longer. — We never hear of Felix ever coming back to God before he died.

The rejection of God’s wisdom is a dangerous thing. In Proverbs, Solomon wrote:

“Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, they would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke” (1:24-30).

How many times have people **boldly** dared to tread on the Face of God in times of health, happiness and wealth — only to find themselves in **the deepest terrors** as they are about to meet their Maker in the final moments of death?! Your faith, or faithlessness, is not tested in the good times, but in the bad. If your faith is not great enough to accompany you across the “chilly waters of death,” then it’s not great enough to keep now. The psalmist David, who trusted in God his entire life, wrote: “*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me...*” (Psalm 23:4). What an anchor of steadiness in an uncertain life and world!

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