

## CARELESS SOUL, WHY DO YOU LINGER?

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### TEXT:

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?", (Matthew 16:26).

PURPOSE: To encourage us to give attention to our greatest need.

### INTRODUCTION:

1) One of the easiest things to do is procrastinate. (We put off many things).

2) One thing you and I do not need to put off is obeying the Gospel! (**Again, careless soul why will you linger**).

(1) Linger means to delay or stay.

(2) "Careless" means not paying **enough** attention.

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEYING THE GOSPEL.

1) Because you have a soul.

(1) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:26)

(2) Man is made in the "**image of God**."

2) Because you are important to God.

(1) God created you.

(2) God sent Christ to die for you.

(3) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life", (John 3:16).

(4) "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).

(5) You are distinctly you. (We each have distinctive finger prints and DNA, there will never be another you!)

3) Your soul is worth more than the whole world.

(1) "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26).

(2) One should give the utmost attention to his soul's salvation.

4) Because of the good you can accomplish in this life.

(1) There much good that you can do, if you obey the Gospel.

(2) Jesus came to give us the abundant life: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**"(John 10:10).

(2) "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"(Ecclesiastes 12:1).

5) Because you will exist eternally somewhere.

(1) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2Corinthians 5:10).

(2) "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal"(Matthew 25:46).

(3) "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

6) Don't be careless with your soul.

## **II. WHY LINGER?**

1) Many are not right with God.

(1) "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

(2) "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1Peter 3:20)

(3) It is easy to follow the crowd - but it leads to destruction.

2) Some think they don't know enough.

(1) God's plan of salvation is simple

(2) One is to **hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:17), **believe** in Christ (John 8:24), **repent** of sins (Acts 17:30), **confess** the Christ (Acts 8:37), be **baptized** for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

3) Some linger due to the pleasures of sin

(1) "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the **pleasures of sin for a season**; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26).

(2) The pleasure of sin is "for a season." It doesn't last.

4) Some linger because punishment for sin is not always immediate.

(1) "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

(2) One should remember there is a judgment day coming.

5) Some linger because they fear what friends, co-workers, etc., might say.

(1) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death", (Revelation 21:8). Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43).

(2) "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

6) Some are waiting for a convenient season

(1) "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25).

7) Some think that they have plenty of time.

(1) "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1).

(2) “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoycing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:13-17).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1) Friend, you have a soul.
- 2) It is important (to God & to you).
- 3) If you are ever going to obey the Gospel - you must do it some day.
- 4) Now is the only time that you have for sure.

(1) “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

(2) Don't delay.