

The “Someday I’ll Get Around To It” Mentality



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

The “Someday I’ll Get Around To It” Mentality

Learn the danger of spiritual procrastination and how you can avoid it

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw57

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW57

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God’s glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God’s word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God’s word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God’s instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD’S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @
WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

The “Someday I’ll Get Around To It” Mentality

“In a field one summer’s day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart’s content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. ‘Why not come and chat with me,’ said the Grasshopper, ‘instead of toiling and moiling in that way?’

“I am helping to lay up food for the winter,” said the Ant, ‘and recommend you to do the same.’

“Why bother about winter?” said the Grasshopper; ‘we have got plenty of food at present.’

“But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the store they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew: It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.” This is one of the most common of Aesop’s fables [The Ant and the Grasshopper. (n.d.). Retrieved October 18, 2015, from http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops_Fables/The_Ant_and_the_Grasshopper_p1.html].

Are you ever guilty of putting off the most important things in life? Are you ever guilty of putting your own short-sighted pleasures ahead of things that relate to your eternal well-being? Do you ever think, “I have enough time to change my life and find the forgiveness of my sins. I will just live to please myself now – and someday I’ll get around to living for God”?

The illustration of the ant and the grasshopper is not just a fable. God actually commends the diligence of the ant to us – and warns about laziness. Listen to Proverbs 6:6-11. “Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.”

You should consider yourself warned of the “Someday I’ll get around to it” mentality! Even an ant recognizes its foolishness! Now, that is not to say that you will not have an opportunity to change your life *someday*. You may. But, you may not.

I am here to warn you about the inherent danger and the failure of such a mentality. In many cases, “Someday I’ll get around to it” quickly becomes, “He never got around to it.” So, please do not let your “someday” become “never”! Since the only time you are assured of is the time you have right *now*, determine that you will give your life entirely to God *today* and dedicate yourself to making the necessary preparations for eternity! This is true for both those who have never become Christians and for those Christians who need to make changes in their lives.

In this lesson, I want to warn you about the mentality that says, “Someday I’ll get around to it” – and encourage you to adopt a very different kind of mentality toward doing the will of God.

What Is This Mentality?

Before we dig deeper into our investigation of this mentality, let’s be certain that we understand what it is – and why it is dangerous.

Defining this mentality

This mentality acknowledges that there is a Creator, a Judge, and a right and a wrong way to live. It also embraces that there is something that will

happen after life on this earth ends that is directly correlated with how an individual lives on this earth. However, this individual (for selfish reasons) still does not want to give his/her life entirely over to serving and obeying God. He/she wants to please himself/herself for as long as he/she feels it is “safe” to do so – while believing that he/she will turn his/her life over to the Lord someday (before the eternal consequences of sin would be experienced).

What this mentality accomplishes

As you can already see, this mentality does accomplish some things. Please take a moment to consider four definite things that are accomplished through this “Someday I’ll get around to it” mentality.

(1) This mindset tries to serve the ultimate master of self. Yes, this mindset *does* recognize some fundamentally important things about God, life, and eternity. And, this mentality does reflect some good *intentions*. The problem is that these good intentions are wrapped around a core of selfish desires! This individual may desire to serve God – but only when it is the most convenient for him/her. Before he/she ever chooses to serve God, he/she wants to fulfill some selfish desire. For instance, in Luke 9:59-60, Jesus said to one individual, “Follow Me. But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.’” Then, in verse 61, another said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” Yet, Jesus responded (verse 62), “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Like these examples indicate, even when there are some good intentions involved, there is not a willingness to put God absolutely first (at least not right now) inherent in this mentality.

(2) This mindset marginalizes God’s warning about sin. I believe that most times this mindset is adopted, the individual actually recognizes (to some degree) the spiritual consequences of sin. In this mindset is a recognition that he/she is not right with God at *present* time – and that there is a need to be right with God before his/her physical life ends. However, this mindset views

rebellion against God as something that is to be enjoyed for as long as he/she possibly can. Therefore, he/she has not learned to view sin in the way God views sin. God warns about the physical and the spiritual consequences of sin. For instance, Proverbs 1:10-33 warns that sin often makes promises for pleasure and personal gain, yet produces suffering and heartache! And, ultimately, Romans 2:8-9 warns, “but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil.” Therefore, sin is something that is to be feared and avoided. Yet, these individuals simply do not fully recognize the consequences of living in rebellion toward God.

(3) This mindset fails to embrace the love God has shown. Whereas God sees sin as something that is to be avoided at all costs, the individual with this mentality sees sin as something that is of a greater source of pleasure than living in the way God instructs. This individual fails to truly appreciate the love of God and the sacrifice Jesus Christ has made on the cross! Jesus Christ came to save people from the spiritual consequences of their sins (Matthew 1:21; John 3:16). Yet, these individuals are not ready to embrace that sacrifice. They want to “enjoy” living for sin a “little while longer.” But, in doing so, they are entirely disregarding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ! For, if they truly understood and were grateful for the love Christ has demonstrated for them and their opportunities to partake of the spiritual blessings He has provided for them, they would certainly give their lives entirely to Him – immediately. Their mindsets would be summarized by 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

(4) This mindset gives a potentially false hope of future opportunities to change. The individual with this mindset (in recognizing some fundamental truths about life after death) clings to the hope of Heaven. He/she believes, “Someday I’ll make my life right with God and go to Heaven.” He/she truly believes that there are favorable changes that he/she will have an opportunity and desire in the

future to make his/her life right with God and be saved. The governor Felix expressed this same kind of mentality in Acts 24. When the apostle Paul was a prisoner, governor Felix would send for Paul and “heard him concerning the faith in Christ” (verse 24). Then, consider verses 25-26. “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’” Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.” I believe this man truly believed the things Paul told him were truth. These things caused him to be “afraid.” Yet, he was focused on his own desires (i.e. looking for a bribe) – and delayed his obedience to Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible does not tell us whether he ever found that more “convenient time” to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ. He may well have died in his sin – while anticipating a more convenient time he could be obedient to the gospel.

Some questions this mentality asks

Now, before we go any further in this lesson, I want to be more specific as to what this mentality looks like. Here are some examples of the kinds of questions this mentality will ask.

- “How long can I live to please my own physical desires before I have to live for the Lord?”
- “What is the probability that my life will end in the next ‘X’ amount of years?”
- “How long can I ‘get away with’ calling myself a ‘Christian,’ going to ‘church,’ and learning what God wants me to do before I actually have to do the things I am learning?”
- “Does God really expect me to live my life completely for Him – all of the time?”
- “Does God really mean what He says about the consequences of sin?”

This mentality must be avoided!

This is just a sample of questions that this mentality asks. In all of these questions, there is a

focus on prolonging the individual’s own selfish desires and pleasures above taking the appropriate actions concerning God’s commandments. This mentality manifests a desire for a “deathbed” religion – one that is all about pleasing yourself. One that is focused on pleasing yourself for as long as you can while you live on this earth – and tries to “repent” at the last possible moment so that you can experience the best that eternity has to offer.

Please understand the foolishness and danger inherent in such a mentality. This is like playing “Russian Roulette” with your soul. “Russian Roulette” refers to the deadly “game” some have played in which one bullet is loaded into the chamber of a revolver. Then, the chamber is spun and each player take a turn putting the gun to his/her head and pulling the trigger. Of course, some would go away from the table unharmed. However, the game is fatal for one of its participants. Certainly, we would all understand the foolishness of such a “game.” Yet, those who possess the mentality we are discussing in this lesson are playing an even more foolish and deadly “game.” Every day, these individuals are taking a chance on spending eternity in Hell fire in order to enjoy a temporary physical pleasure. So, if you would not play a physical game of “Russian Roulette” because of the risk involved, why would you take such a chance with your soul that will affect your eternity?

Reasons For Spiritual Procrastination

“Procrastination” involves an understanding of something that needs to be done; yet, there is an avoidance of doing it. For instance, some folks procrastinate losing weight. Some folks procrastinate changing a habit. Some folks procrastinate talking to someone. People procrastinate very frequently. However, this is not just true physically. It is also true spiritually. People will procrastinate their search for a right relationship with God for a wide variety of reasons. Let’s consider some of them now.

Contentment

Generally speaking, contentment is a characteristic God wants people to have in their lives. For instance, 1 Timothy 6:8 says, “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” Yes, God wants people to be satisfied with those things He has blessed them with and does not want people to possess greedy desires for more. This lack of contentment reflects selfishness rather than service to God.

But, there are those who are simply “content” in their lives of sin. They feel a sense of purpose (even if it is a misguided purpose). They feel a sense of happiness (even though it is not true and lasting happiness). They simply believe that there is no reason to change their lives until their physical conditions change!

However, this verse is prefaced by what Paul wrote in verse 6. “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.” God never wants you to be content with sin in your life! Even if everything else is going well in your life, you must not consider those blessings from God as approval for continuing to live in sin. Instead, if you interpret the physical blessings God has provided you as permission to continue living in sin, you have entirely demonstrated your contempt for God! Romans 2:4 asks those who were living in sin, “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” Rather than being “content” in your life of sin, determine that you will seek to obey the Lord and truly glorify Him for the good things He has blessed you with!

Indecision

There are those who understand the basic truths of the Bible, but they “straddle a fence” and fail to ever commit to one side or another. In the case of the individual who is involved in spiritual procrastination, he/she often desires the earthly pleasures of sin. But, he/she is also aware and fearful of the spiritual and eternal consequences of sin. He/she simply cannot fully determine whether he/she wants to “live life to the fullest” and enjoy as many earthly pleasures as possible – or, whether he/she

wants to sacrifice his/her earthly life to serving Jesus Christ.

There are times people are truly undecided about which way is the best way for them to live at the present time. But, they view their decision from a perspective of selfishness and shortsightedness. They are focused on how much they can fulfill their own earthly desires. They view their lives and the physical pleasures they experience and consider why they would ever want to give those pursuits up in order to serve God.

Yet, they do not truly understand that their souls are in serious danger. These individuals need to seriously consider the purpose of life and the warnings about the coming Judgment. He/she must not be indecisive about whether or not to have faith in God and trust what He says. Instead, this one must recognize that he/she will reap what he/she sows. Galatians 6:7-8 warns: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Decide to follow Jesus Christ today and experience the eternal salvation He offers!

Unwilling to fully commit

Similar to the previous reason, some procrastinate in making their lives right with God by failing to choose a side. Yet, unlike the previous discussion, these individuals are fully convinced (intellectually) about the reality of God and His warnings about sin, Judgment, and eternity. The problem with these individuals is making the full commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

First, please recognize that Jesus Christ requires a full commitment be made in order to serve Him acceptably. In Matthew 12:30, Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” In Revelation 3:14-22, Jesus condemned the lukewarm attitudes of some who professed to follow Him. They were neither all the way for Him nor were they all the way against Him. Therefore, Jesus said that He would vomit them out of His mouth.

Those who are unwilling to fully commit to the Lord may be weighing the cost of true discipleship in their minds *right now*. And, this is what Jesus wants you to do. He wants you to recognize that there is a high cost involved in being one of His disciples. In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus taught individuals to “count the cost” of discipleship and recognize that He requires you to fully dedicate yourself to serving Him. He says that He must come before your family, before your possessions, and before your own physical life – if you want to please Him.

Perhaps you are standing on the edge of committing to Jesus Christ. Like Felix (in Acts 24), perhaps you are trembling in fear as you consider the coming Judgment. Yet, you just do not desire to give that much control of your life to Jesus Christ and accomplish the righteousness of God. If this is the case, recognize that there is no hope for you beyond your earthly life apart from Jesus Christ. And, recognize that although the cost of serving God is high, the reward for serving Christ is even greater!

Expectation of a “better” time

Some are procrastinating their service to God because they expect a “better” time to serve Him in their lives. Perhaps they are enjoying the temporary pleasures of sin right now. Perhaps they are “living the good life” (by worldly standards). Perhaps there would be too much to sacrifice right now in order to serve the Lord. Perhaps there is some change God requires that an individual simply is not willing to make.

There are many people who delay their service to God at the present time because they hope for a more convenient opportunity to serve Him. Many times, folks consider that they will have a more convenient time to live entirely for God in their older years. That way, they can focus on their own interests and desires now – but still follow the Lord before it’s too late.

We can learn from two examples in the book of Acts. First, we have already considered the example of Felix, the governor (in Acts 24). He was focused on worldly things – even though he trembled at the preaching of the faith in Christ. He considered

Paul’s preaching on subjects like righteousness, self-control, and the Judgment to come. Yet, he delayed obedience until a more “convenient time.” Second, Acts 26:24-29 records an example of King Agrippa. As the apostle Paul preached to him, he was convinced that Agrippa believed. Yet, Agrippa said, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian” (verse 28). Then, Paul responded, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains” (verse 29).

Both of these men contemplated obedience to God. Yet, both of them decided that it was not the “right” time to obey God. Similarly, there are many people today who are waiting for a “perfect” time to obey God. Some are waiting until there are less things they will have to change in order to follow Christ. Some are waiting until they commit no sin to follow Christ. Yet, the only time that will ever be the “right” time to obey God and make the necessary changes in your life is *right now*! In 2 Corinthians 6:2, Paul wrote, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Fear

Any time there is a serious change that needs to be made, there is the temptation to be afraid of making it. Therefore, when an individual is faced with the decision to commit his/her entire life to serving Jesus Christ, he/she may be tempted to fear. It may be fear of living a completely different kind of life (one that is focused on serving God rather than serving self). It may be the fear of ridicule. It may be the fear of being alienated from loved ones. It may be the fear of trying to serve God completely but failing to do so.

Often, folks focus on what can possibly go wrong – and they become paralyzed in their fear. I think this is part of the picture in Proverbs 22:13. “The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’” Yes, there will be difficulties involved in serving God. But, you must not allow that to stop you from following Christ. Listen to Proverbs 29:25. “The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”

Some Reasons For Urgency

Regardless of what the reason behind your fear is, you must recognize that there is only one you should fear. Consider what Jesus taught in Matthew 10:28. “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Ultimately, there is nothing earthly that we should fear. The only one we should fear is God. Because, as the Hebrew writer said, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

Laziness

Some people refuse to follow God presently because of their spiritual laziness. Like water that seeks the path of least resistance, some people refuse to do anything spiritually that requires them to move beyond what they are comfortable with. Sometimes this prevents people from beginning to follow the Lord. And, sometimes this prevents people who follow the Lord in some things from following Him in all things.

Yet, you must recognize that living in a way that is pleasing to God will take work and diligence. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

The path that is easy leads to everlasting punishment (in Hell). It is the path that doesn't require self-discipline. It doesn't require you to overcome any obstacles. It doesn't require you to step outside of your “comfort zone.” Yet, though it is the path of “least resistance” during your life on earth, it results in great misery for all of eternity!

The path that is difficult, on the other hand, is the one that leads to everlasting life (in Heaven). It does require great self-discipline to be practiced. It does have many obstacles that will not be pleasant (physically speaking). It does require you to constantly step outside of your “comfort zone.” Yet, though there will be discomfort and hardship experienced during life on this earth, this is the only path that results in joy beyond measure for all of eternity!

Procrastination is the enemy of progress and urgency. Therefore, if you have been procrastinating for any of the reasons we have been discussing (or for any other reason), please seriously consider why you should act with urgency in obeying God. Consider the following reasons.

There is a time when no man can work

During your life on this earth, you have the opportunity to make changes to your life and follow Jesus. However, there is no more opportunity to do good after your life ends. You must recognize that your earthly life is coming to an end. Hebrews 9:27 promises, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Therefore, you should put an urgent focus on doing the good things you need to be doing. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.” Once you experience physical death, you won't be accomplishing or learning anything else on this earth! So, you should give life your greatest effort while you have the time and opportunity on this earth. Jesus recognized His brief period of time to accomplish God's mission for Him on this earth and said, “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4). And, just as this was true about Jesus, you also have a limited time to accomplish the good God wants you to accomplish! Don't procrastinate!

The soul of man survives physical death

The matter of failing to obey God is not just a matter of how you have lived on this earth and leaving some kind of good legacy/memory for others. How you live on earth is important because you have a soul that will survive your physical death. For instance, we have already considered the fact that you will reap according to what you have sown (from Galatians 6:7-8). Those who live to please themselves will receive the eternal punishment God

has promised to bring on those who do not obey Him. But, those who live to please God will receive the eternal reward God has promised to give to those who love Him and obey Him.

This can be demonstrated in Jesus' teaching about a rich man and a man named Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. In the text, He demonstrates that the two men lived very different lives. The rich man lived luxuriously – and Lazarus was a poor beggar who would have gladly eaten the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Then, both men experienced physical deaths. And, each one continued to exist after their physical deaths. Lazarus experienced comfort. The rich man experienced torment. Therefore, you must recognize that whether you choose to obey God or not does matter – because you will continue to exist somewhere after your earthly life ends. Ultimately, you will either spend eternity in Heaven or in Hell (Matthew 25:46).

There is a Judgment coming

One Day, you will stand before the Judgment seat of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10 explains. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." Other passages even demonstrate that you will be held accountable for all of the things you believed were done in "secret" (see Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and Romans 2:16).

This Day of Judgment will happen when Jesus Christ returns (see Matthew 25:31-46). And, concerning His Judgment, consider what Romans 2:6-11 teaches: "who 'will render to each one according to his deeds': eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God."

Death can happen at any time

So, why be urgent about your obedience to God? As you consider the Biblical truths we have just been considering, you must recognize that your physical life can end at any time (and, thus, your opportunity to change). God simply does not promise you another breath on this earth. So, you had better take full advantage of the breath He has given you at this present time!

James helps us to view life in this way in James 4:13-16. "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil." Your life is quickly passing you by – along with your opportunities to live for God. Will you procrastinate another moment and refuse to follow Christ?

Jesus' return can happen at any time

Not only can you experience physical death at any time, but Jesus has also not announced the time of His return. In fact, He has warned you (through the Scriptures) that His coming will be like a thief who comes in the night. And, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 speaks concerning how most people will be caught unprepared when Jesus returns. "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

Many people are living to please themselves presently – because they believe they have plenty of time to change their lives and live for God. However, listen to Jesus in Matthew 24:36-44. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know

until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Jesus' coming may be today. Are you ready?

If you lose your soul, you will have lost everything you have that is truly worth anything

Those who possess the "Someday I'll get around to it" mentality are taking huge risks with their souls. Perhaps, for some, they will have the time to change their lives one day. However, many will never find the "right" time to obey God. Are you willing to take that risk?

You must recognize that your soul is the most valuable thing that you have. Therefore, Jesus asks, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Even if you live to experience all of the pleasures this life has to offer you, your life will have been wasted if you spend your eternity in Hell fire!

Redeem The Time!

As we began thinking about in this lesson, you need to heed the instruction, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise" (Proverbs 6:6). The ant recognizes the "big picture" of its life. For the ant, this involves recognizing the need to collect food during the time food is available – because there will be a time when the food will not be available. If it had not made the sufficient preparations, it will die. Similarly, you also need to recognize your "big picture." You must recognize the need to sacrifice your temporary physical pleasures in order to serve God during your life on this earth –

because there will be a time when you will be judged and rewarded or punished according to your deeds. If you do not make the necessary preparations, you will experience eternal spiritual death in Hell fire. But, if you do make the necessary preparations, you will spend an eternity in Heaven with God!

Make the most of your time

In Ephesians 5:15-16 says, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." To "walk circumspectly" is to live in a very careful kind of way. Yes, God wants you to carefully consider everything you do while you live on this earth so that you will make decisions that will please Him. And, involved in walking carefully in wisdom is redeeming the time. This is to make the best use of the time God has given you. Therefore, carefully consider what you are doing with your time.

Perhaps you are wasting the precious time God has given you by living for your own selfish desires. If so, you need to wake up from your spiritual slumber – and get to work in God's service while you have the opportunity. Listen to Romans 13:11-14: "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Don't waste any more time living in sin!

Now is the day of salvation

Today is the day you need to make the changes God requires you to make in your life. Not in a few years. Not in a month or in a couple of weeks. Not tomorrow. Not later today. Remember, James said (in talking about the brevity and uncertainty of life) that "you do not know what will happen tomorrow" (James 4:14).

Remember that 2 Corinthians 6:2 said, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Since right now is the only time

you are guaranteed, right now is the “right” time to make changes in your life and follow God. Perhaps you have never heard God’s word. Right now is the time to hear it. Perhaps you have not begun to follow Christ. Right now is the time to be obedient to His plan of salvation that requires you to hear His word, believe in Christ, repent of your sins, confess Christ, and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. Perhaps you have started to follow Christ, but you have done something that God has command you not to do. Right now is the time to make that correction in your life. Perhaps you have started to follow Christ, but you have not done what He has required you to do. Right now is the time to make that correction in your life. Perhaps you had started to follow Christ at one time, but you did not fully commit yourself to Him. Right now is the time to change that and give yourself entirely to your Savior.

Seeing The Results

There will be a noticeable change in your life if you can eliminate the “Someday I’ll get around to it” mentality – and develop an intense longing for that which is right in God’s sight and determine to do whatever He requires of you *right now!* Just consider a few examples (thinking back to the examples I gave at the beginning of this lesson). As we consider these examples, let’s think of them in a before-after kind of way (before the change in mindset – after the change in mindset).

Self-centered focus

Before: “How long can I live to please my own physical desires before I have to live for the Lord?”

After: “I don’t know how long I have to live on this earth. But, I am determined not to waste my life in pursuit of selfish desires. I am determined to make the best use of the time God has given me to serve Him.”

Risking your soul

Before: “What is the probability that my life will end in the next ‘X’ amount of years?” “How long

can I ‘get away with’ calling myself a ‘Christian,’ going to ‘church,’ and learning what God wants me to do before I actually have to do the things I am learning?”

After: I view my soul as the most important thing that I have. Therefore, I will not do anything to put my soul in jeopardy for one minute. I will carefully consider the real possibility that my life will end today – and do everything I can so that my life is pleasing to God *today*.

Doubting God

Before: “Does God really expect me to live my life completely for Him – all of the time? Does God really mean what He says about the consequences of sin?”

After: I know that God does require me to serve Him with all of my being. Furthermore, I know that Jesus gave His life entirely on the cross so that I could be saved. So, how could I do any less than give myself entirely to live for Him? And, I give myself entirely to God knowing full well that God means exactly what He says concerning the punishment of Hell fire!

Conclusion

I hope this lesson has encouraged you to eliminate the “Someday I’ll get around to it” mentality with regard to living for Jesus Christ. I hope that you will seriously consider the uncertain duration of your earthly life and determine that you will not risk losing your soul for even one more moment of carelessness in pursuit of physical pleasures. Instead, as you think about the things we have been studying, imitate the psalmist’s desire to serve God immediately.

Consider Psalm 119:57-60. “You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words. I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word. I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.”

Study Questions

What does the Bible teach about the diligence of the ant? What should you learn from it?

1. What Is This Mentality?

What is the “Someday I’ll get around to it” mentality?

What does this mentality accomplish?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

What are some examples this mentality asks?

Should this mentality be avoided? Why or why not?

2. Reasons For Spiritual Procrastination

How can contentment contribute to spiritual procrastination?

How can indecision contribute to spiritual procrastination?

How can an unwillingness to fully commit to Christ contribute to spiritual procrastination?

How can an expectation of a “better” time contribute to spiritual procrastination?

How can fear contribute to spiritual procrastination?

How can laziness contribute to spiritual procrastination?

3. Some Reasons For Urgency

Will you ever run out of opportunities to work for God?

What is the significance of man’s continued existence after physical death?

What will happen on the Day of Judgment?

When will your physical death happen?

When will Jesus’ return happen?

What is the value of your soul?

4. Redeem The Time!

What does it mean to “redeem” time?

When should you obey God?