

## Why Wait?

- Acts 22:16

- **Often times when I want to put things off, I will make excuses. But I am not by myself. There have been others who have made excuses as well.**
  - When God called Moses he tried to excuse himself by offering several objections as to why he couldn't go. Yet God answered every objection, declaring them invalid.
- **One such important choice that far too many times people are willing to wait on is the choice to follow after Jesus Christ.**
  - If you are here this morning and you have not yet made a choice to accept Jesus Christ, it may be you think you have a valid reason.
  - But just as God answered every objection raised by Moses, so His Word answers any reason you may give for not obeying today!
- **READ SCRIPTURE (vv.12-16)**
- **In our scripture this morning, Paul in essence begins sharing his testimony & what he used to be and how his transformation came about.**
  - He confesses how he sought to persecute the church.
  - But then one day on the Damascus Road, he met Jesus as a bright light shone about.
  - He asked the Lord what he needed to do & Jesus instructed him to continue to Damascus.
  - Being blinded from the light, he was led to Damascus where Ananias would come & pay him a visit.
- **As Ananias came & brought healing to Paul, Ananias asked Paul a very important question that we should ask ourselves today.**
  - "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- **Why does one wait? We will be talking specifically about salvation this morning this morning; but I will tell you, this includes other avenues as well.**
  - We wait on choosing to serve the Lord.
  - We wait to establish a Godly home.
  - We wait to start a consistent Bible study.
  - We wait to come to the Lord in prayer over our needs.
  - We wait to testify of God's goodness to others.
- **This morning as we answer the question, "Why Wait?", I want to expose some of the excuses that often times we use.**

### I. "I Will ... But Not Now."

#### a. Procrastination Is One Of Satan's Greatest Weapons

- i. Listen to me church. You may be here this morning & you need to quit waiting on making a choice about God. But the altar call time will come & you will begin to contemplate, "Well, I could just wait until next week." And if you do that, Satan has won.
- ii. He delights in using it on us at every stage of life.
  1. For the child, they think, "I'm way too young to think about God."
  2. For the teenager, "I'm got my whole life ahead of me."

3. For the college student or young adult, "I'm too busy to think about God."
  4. For the adults in their 30'-40's, "We think we have life figured out & at this time in our life, we don't need God."
  5. For many seniors, they will put God off by simply saying, "I'm too old to think about God or give my life to Him now."
- iii. And so, we put it off. We wait another week. Of course the problem with all of these excuses is that we are "banking" on another chance ... which unfortunately many times never comes.
  - iv. There are times where people will hear the Gospel, know exactly what they need to do & have every intention of one day trusting in Him; but that day never comes.
  - v. And so I ask you a very important question today ... "Why Wait?"

**b. This Delay Is A Foolish Mistake**

- i. If God speaks to your heart about salvation, or commitment, or service and we say, "No God, not now, I want to wait", this is a very foolish mistake.
- ii. Would you delay in taking appropriate action if you knew you had a terminal disease if left untreated?
- iii. Yet we care far more about the body at times (the temporal) than we care about the soul (the eternal).
  1. Matthew 10:28 – "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."
  2. If you are here this morning & you have put God off, can I humbly encourage you today to not wait any longer ... your eternal soul is at stake!

**II. "I'm Not Sure I Can Live The Christian Life"**

**a. They Believe They Have To Clean Up Their Lives Before Coming To Christ**

- i. Some mistakenly believe they are expected to act like mature Christians right away.
  1. They look at those who have been Christians for years.
  2. They know they cannot act like that immediately, so assume they must change themselves completely before becoming Christians.
- ii. Being a Christian is a continual process of growth.
  1. We start out as "babes in Christ", often still carnal or worldly in our behavior. (I Cor. 3:1-4)
  2. But we are to grow, gradually putting off the "old man" and putting on the "new man". (II Peter 3:18; Col. 3:8-10)

**b. They Need To Realize They CAN'T Live The Christian Life Without Christ!**

- i. If you wait until you can live the Christian life to become a Christian, you will be waiting forever!
  1. I'm glad I didn't wait till I was good enough before I came to Christ, AMEN?
- ii. It is only in Christ that we receive the strength to overcome the struggles of the flesh and that we are able to live a life pleasing unto God. It's not through our power, but through the power of Christ that is in us.
  1. Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

**III. "There Are Hypocrites In The Church"**

**a. You Are Right, But They're Not Just At Church**

- i. Perhaps the greatest example of hypocrisy is one of the most enjoyed hobbies in America today.
  - 1. It holds record attendances week in & week out.
  - 2. Is a multi-billion dollar business.
  - 3. And though many are blatant hypocrites both in public & in private, have hypocrites in the stadium ever prevented you from going to a game?
- ii. There are hypocrites that line the aisles of Bi-Lo & Wal-Mart, but we still go.
- iii. There are hypocrites at the malls, but we don't cease to shop.
- iv. There are a lot of hypocrites on our TV's & radio stations, but we still watch & listen to them.
- v. I am afraid sometimes in our defense of other hypocrites, we make ourselves out to be a hypocrite!
  - 1. Which is worse?
    - a. I had rather be serving God & living for Him & spend A FEW YEARS in a church with a FEW hypocrites?
    - b. Or to spend ETERNITY in hell with ALL the hypocrites?

**b. Jesus Even Encountered Hypocrites**

- i. Jesus did not refuse to worship in the synagogues just because the religious leaders were hypocrites.
- ii. Peter, James, John and the rest of the apostles did not leave Jesus just because Judas was a hypocrite!
- iii. If you let the hypocrite come in between you and God ...
  - 1. You let the hypocrite become bigger than God!

**IV. They Are Not Willing To Part With Their Sin**

**a. Many Wait To Accept Christ Because Of The Pleasure Of Sin**

- i. Acts 26:28 – “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”
- ii. I thought for a long time that Paul had come close to convincing King Agrippa that he needed to place his trust in Christ. But he was no closer than many today who love their sin more than they love God.
  - 1. The King had been shown the light and the way to freedom, but he had deliberately closed his eyes and returned to his sins.
  - 2. He was still opposed to the gospel.
    - a. He didn't want to give up his sins,
    - b. He didn't want to change his life-style,
    - c. He wasn't willing to be associated with Christ,
  - 3. And so he rejected Christ. He decided to wait, perhaps just wait until later on in life. But as far as we know, the Holy Spirit never gave him another chance. Heaven's most gifted, persuasive, and Spirit-filled ambassador had presented him with the demands of God's throne and he turned away.

➤ **There may be other excuses, reasons, or objections one might give for not obeying the gospel, but as you think about eternity, there is really no justifiable reason to put off your obedience to the Gospel message.**

- There is no justification for not accepting the grace God that He freely gives for your life.

- So the question this morning is this, “If you know what you need to do, why put it off any longer?”

➤ If you understand, and are convicted in your heart...

- That you are lost in your sins
- That Christ offered Himself on the cross for your sins
- That you can receive the benefits of His death through:
  - Believing in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God - [Ac 8:37](#); [10:43](#); [16:30-31](#)
  - Repenting of your sins - [Ac 2:38](#); [3:19](#); [17:30-31](#)
  - Confessing your faith in Christ - [Ro 10:9-10](#); [Ac 8:37](#)
  - Being baptized for the remission of your sins - [Ac 2:38](#); [22:16](#);
  - Remaining faithful to the Lord - [Re 2:10](#)
- Then you know enough to receive salvation and begin the Christian life!