

## NEGLIGENCE

Many times during our lives we get in a rut and often neglect doing things we should do. We put it off till tomorrow and tomorrow never really gets here.

Hebrews 2:1-3 tells us, *"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him."*

How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Yet, many times we neglect to do what we must in our daily lives to reach heaven.

One of the things that is neglected most is study. How many times have you gone from service to service without opening your Bible? I believe that sometimes we get so involved with what we are doing in our daily lives we tend to leave God out. Christ says in Luke 9:23, *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

Paul writing to young Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* Why study? To show ourselves approved unto God. Isaiah 34:16 tells us, *"Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read."*

As our physical bodies need food to sustain life, even so our spiritual bodies need spiritual food to sustain life (Heb. 5:12-14). 1 Timothy 4:12-13 tells us, *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."* Give attendance to these things --don't neglect them.

In Ephesians 5:16 Paul tells us to redeem the time because the days are evil. To me this means in the present time to turn off the television, computer, and other distractions, and to use our time wisely. Psalm 1:1-2, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*" Study and meditation should be a very important part of our *DAILY LIVES*.

Another thing that is neglected in the daily lives of many Christians is prayer. How often do we use this privilege? Once a day? Twice a day? At meals only? Many people fail to realize what an honor it is to go to God in prayer, an honor only Christians have. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "*pray without ceasing.*" Romans 12:12, to be "*instant in prayer.*" Do we just run through the words of a prayer at a meal or do we really mean them? Ephesians 5:20, "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" I believe those words are plain enough. And we must be humble when we pray:

*"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."* (Luke 18:10-13)

How does the story end? Christ in vs. 14 says, "*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*" Being humble in prayer is a very important part.

Some Christians go on vacation where there is no church. Hebrews 10:25 tells us, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves*

*together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.*" How do we exhort one another, but by coming to the house of God in Christian fellowship and love? He tells us in this reading not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, yet so many people when they go on vacation or just have a little headache do this. My plea across the brotherhood is to make sure there is a place to worship before going on vacation. Ask one of the leaders of the congregation where a loyal church is. Don't get caught on vacation without a place to worship because you never know when the end of time will be.

Even when not on vacation, many people neglect the morning services when it's not convenient and more often neglect the evening services. We think we have hardships in this life, but think about the early church. Acts 20:7-8 tells us how Paul preached until midnight. There was no heater or air conditioner, and they had to use candles or something of this sort for light. They still came to worship God. Through neglect many Christians fail to show up at night services, yet the early church went through hardship after hardship and still met together. Consider the example of Peter and the other apostles in Acts 5:41, *"And they departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."* They suffered persecution and counted it glory to do so for Christ, yet some Christians can't give God a measly 3 hours per week. Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves. Titus 3:1 tells us to be ready unto every good work. If assembling is not a good work, what is it?

There are many young people throughout the brotherhood who need the encouragement of attendance. Young preachers use the same book as the one preaching the gospel meeting, but don't have as many people attend when they preach. We all preach the same gospel too. *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain"* (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

This nation was partly built upon the freedom to worship God openly and without fear. The First Amendment to the Constitution

goes like this, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." We should have no fear of government to keep us away from the assembly! The early Christians didn't let even persecution stop them from assembling, yet many in this free nation make excuses not to assemble.

We as Christians should leave the first principles and go on to perfection (Heb. 6:1). It's our duty to put away negligence of studying--prayer--assembling--and to strive for perfection.

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### **FROM THE SCRIPTURES...**

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

-Proverbs 3:1-6

### **APOLOGIA**

QUESTION: How many wives did Moses have?

ANSWER: This is a question that has been debated by scholars for some time. The basic problem is because the Bible records that Moses married a woman by the name of Zipporah and then later speaks of Miriam and Aaron who spoke against Moses because of an Ethiopian woman whom he had married. The question becomes "Are Zipporah and the Ethiopian woman the same person?"

Moses married Zipporah after having fled Egypt for slaying an Egyptian whom he had witnessed beating a Hebrew. He fled to the land of Midian where Jethro, the Priest of Midian, gave him his

daughter to be his wife. It is later, in the book of Numbers, chapter 12, that we read of the Ethiopian woman.

There are basically three views about who this woman was. First, there are those who hold the view that the woman mentioned is Moses' second wife that he took after the death of Zipporah. This is believed because Midian is in the peninsula of Sinai and Ethiopia in the south of Egypt. The second view is that she was an Ethiopian princess. This story is recorded for us in the works of Josephus (Ant. 2,10,2). The third view is that she is Zipporah herself. This view is based upon Habakkuk 3:7 where Cushan is interchanged with Midian in the text. All views have their strong points but I am inclined to think that the third view is more probable. This is because it has as its base, Bible to support it.

Questions such as these, though not necessary to salvation, show that our readers are good students and are definitely studying. It is my hope that such continues.

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## **BIBLE PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION**

### **I. ALL PEOPLE HAVE SINNED**

1 Ki 8:46 Rom 3:10 Rom 3:23 Rom 5:12 1 Jn 1:8 1 Jn 5:19

### **II. A SINNER WILL FACE ETERNAL DEATH**

Ezek 33:8-9 Rom 6:23 2 Thes 1:7-9 Jas 1:15 Jas 5:20 Rev 21:8

*Unless he:*

#### **1) Hears the Word of God**

Matt 13:23 Lk 10:39 Jn 10:16 Rom 10:17 Eph 1:13 1 Thes 2:13

#### **2) Realizes Jesus Christ Is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation**

Jn 6:68 Jn 14:6 Acts 4:12 Eph 2:18 1 Thes 5:9 Heb 5:9

#### **3) Believes Jesus Is the Son of God**

Mk 16:16 Jn 3:16 Jn 8:24 Jn 20:31 Acts 10:43 Acts 16:31 Heb 11:6

#### **4) Is Convicted in His Heart of His Own Disobedience**

Acts 2:37 Acts 16:29 Acts 24:25 2 Cor 7:8-11

**5) Repents of His Sins**

Lk 13:3 Acts 2:38 Acts 3:19 Acts 17:30 Acts 26:20

**6) Confesses His Faith in the Lord Jesus**

Matt 10:32 Acts 8:37 Acts 19:18 Rom 10:9-10 Phil 2:11 1 Jn 4:15

**7) Is Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of Sins in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

Matt 28:19 Mk 16:16 Jn 3:5 Acts 2:38 Acts 8:36-39 Acts 10:47-48  
Acts 16:33 Acts 22:16 Rom 6:3-6 Gal 3:27 Col 2:12 1 Pet 3:21

**8) Lives a Faithful Life Guided Only by the Authority of the NT**

Matt 25:21 Rom 1:16 Tit 2:11-12 Heb 4:12 Jas 1:21 1 Jn 5:4 Rev 2:10

**9) Worships in Spirit & Truth, Not Forsaking the Assembling and Observing the Lord's Supper Every First Day of the Week**

Matt 4:10 Jn 4:23-24 Acts 2:42 Acts 20:7 1 Cor 11:20-30 Heb 10:25

**10) Prays for Forgiveness If He Should Fall into Sin Again**

Acts 8:22 Jas 5:15-16 1 Jn 1:5-10

**III. ONLY THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF GOD SHALL BE SAVED**

Matt 7:21 Matt 12:50 Lk 6:47-48 Rom 2:13 Jas 1:22 1 Jn 2:17 Rev 22:14

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. When God called Moses from the burning bush, he told Moses what people would listen to him?
2. What was the name of Samson's first wife?
3. Jeremiah prophesied that the Israelite captivity under Babylon would last how long?
4. When Jesus sent out His twelve disciples, He challenged them to be as wise as what creature, yet as harmless as what other creature?
5. In II Corinthians, Paul mentioned a helper of his, calling him his "partner and fellow worker concerning you," reminding the Corinthians that they had refreshed this man's spirit. What was this man's name?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
August 5 - 7	Mt. Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 21 - 24	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
August 26 - 28	Fayetteville Road Fairburn, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 29 - - Sept. 2	Hopkinsville Hopkinsville, OH	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Sept. 1 - 4	Mt. Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Aaron Keeton