

Improve Your Life

Turn off the TV for an hour and read your Bible.

The Psalmist said of the blessed man, "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

Put down the phone and pray.

I never cease to be amazed at how much time some people spend on their cell phones. Is all that talking, texting, and browsing really necessary or profitable? "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (James 5:16).

Get out of bed a little earlier and come to Bible study.

"As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed" (Proverbs 26:14). "He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple" (Isaiah 50:4).

Cut down your credit card purchases and give.

Give to the poor. Increase your contribution at church. "One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed" (Proverbs 19:17). "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Change the conversation from sports, weather, and politics to spiritual things.

Do that at home. "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Do that at work, too. "He who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

A few simple changes can make a big difference!

- by Frank Himmel

What Is Wrong?

Something is bad wrong when we cannot have all of the members of the church, and their children, in attendance for Bible study. If you are a habitual absentee, consider that your eternal welfare depends upon your finding and correcting what is wrong. A few possibilities are listed:

1. If a person is too sick to go, something is wrong with his health. He should consult a doctor.
2. If he thinks he does not need the help that comes from Bible study, something is wrong with his education. He does not know enough to know what he needs most.
3. If he sleeps too late, he is too lazy. He needs to study Proverbs 6:6-11.
4. If he does not have the interest to go, something is terribly wrong with his attitude. Indifference causes people to be lost.
5. If he is too busy to go, something is wrong with his schedule. The person who is "too busy" to serve the Lord is "too busy" to go to heaven.
6. If he lets company keep him away, then something is wrong with his courage. He should have the grit to serve the Lord even if the company is missed or offended.
7. If he thinks his clothes are not good enough, something is wrong with his pride. This excuse is over exalted, for the persons who use it can usually go anywhere else in the same town.

And when any of the above, excepting the first, are the reasons one will not regularly worship and study, something is wrong with the heart. Do not deceive yourself by thinking that everything will "work out alright" if everything is not all right with your heart - check yours.

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To Hell, In a Good Humor

We are surrounded by people who are lost in sin and destined to spend eternity in Hell. That is, of course, unless they can be reached with the saving power of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

There are, however, a number of issues making it harder and harder to reach lost people. For instance, our increasingly secular society has caused people to be much less interested in discussing religious topics. And, too, there is the difficulty caused by all the false teachers that are spreading their errors far and wide. We could also mention that the materialism of our prosperous times have blinded many to the realities of eternity.

But, one of the main problems we face is our own unwillingness to take the gospel to the lost. Too many Christians fear that others will be offended or 'put off' by any effort to share God's truth with them. And so, since they might not respond favorably to our work, we do nothing. Think about it – we are willing to let others go to Hell because we don't want to offend them with the gospel. Or, to put it another way, we are watching them head for Hell – but at least they are in a 'good humor.' How sad!

And, this unwillingness to reach out to the lost goes beyond the nameless masses in our communities. It also includes our closest friends, our nearest neighbors, and even our own beloved family members. How many parents, for example, will ignore and tacitly condone the immoral conduct of their children because they don't want to alienate them or cause any friction in their relationships? How many Christians fail to speak up to warn their friends and neighbors because they don't want to hurt their feelings with the truth about their lost condition?

Are we really willing to let these folks 'go to Hell, in a good humor?' Wouldn't be better to risk a negative reaction now, instead of letting them be lost forever? Think!

- by Greg Gwin