

## ***'Almost' is Not Enough***

It is sometimes said of an individual who has not yet obeyed the gospel, "I believe he is almost ready to be baptized", or that "she is close is becoming a Christian".

Friend, are you one of those people? Can we not somehow impress upon you

- (1) that "almost" is not sufficient to make one a Christian;
- (2) that being "close" is not the same thing as being "in Christ";
- (3) that you are still in a LOST condition; and
- (4) that Christ is coming in judgment one day? It is essential for you to note the words of Paul in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 where he states that those "who obey not the gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction ... " We URGE you to take a serious look at your life, your need of salvation, and the hope that can be found only -in - Christ. Obey the gospel TODAY!

**- by Barney Keith**

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## ***A Good, Lost Man***

I know a man who is unquestionably honest; he is very diligent to seek the right course in life; he has the courage to stand for the Lord in the face of all opposition; he has experienced a genuine encounter with Jesus; yet, he is lost! Before you call me a bigot, listen to what Jesus said to this man: *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5).

Nicodemus was a very religious man. Unlike other religious leaders who stubbornly refused to accept the evidence for the deity of Christ, Nicodemus wisely and honestly confessed that Jesus came from God. He courageously pleaded with the hard-hearted rulers to investigate His claims (Jn.7:50-52). Though some rulers believed on Jesus, they were afraid to confess Him lest they be put out of the synagogue (Jn.12:42,43). Nicodemus, on the other hand, assisted Joseph in the Lord's burial (Jn.19:38ff). In spite of all these sterling qualities, however, Nicodemus needed to be born again before he could enter the kingdom of God.

If you think you are headed for heaven simply because you are religious, or because you do some things that are right, or because of your sacrifice for Jesus, you had better read John 3:1-8. And then turn to Acts 10:34,35. Those who have not been born again are not in the kingdom of God, no matter how religious they appear to be. Do you need to be born again?

**- by Rick Duggin**

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## ***Don't Push Me!***

One time I was urging a teenager to obey the gospel of Christ, and she said, "DON'T PUSH, ME!" A parent told me recently that every time she talked about religion to her daughter, she said, "DON'T PUSH ME!" Sadly, many people have this attitude about becoming a Christian. The next time someone says to me "DON'T PUSH ME!" I will ask them pointedly if they intend to allow the devil to push them into eternal hell – that is exactly what they are doing by rejecting Christ.

**- by Aude McKee**

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## ***Practical Rules For A Happy Married Life***

1. Never both be angry at once.
2. Never talk *at* one another, either alone or in company,
3. Never speak loudly to one another unless the house is on fire!
4. Let each one strive to yield more often to do the wishes of the other.
5. Let self denial be the daily aim and practice of each.
6. Never taunt with a past mistake.
7. Neglect the whole world rather than one another.

8. Never make a remark at the expense of one another.
9. Never part for a day without words to think of (kindly) during absence.
10. Never meet without a loving welcome.
11. Never let the sun go down on any anger or grievance.
12. Never forget the happy hours of early love.
13. Never forget that marriage is ordained of God, and that His blessings alone can make it what it ought to be.

**- by Johnny Ramsey**

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### ***Building My Case by Comparing to the Least***

Self-justification is a highly developed skill in most individuals. In school, on the job, in our marriages, and in almost every other activity and relationship we will quickly revert to self-justification if some criticism is leveled in our direction. When it comes to our spiritual service to God we also rush to defend ourselves if it is suggested that we are negligent and need to improve in one area or another.

The example of King Saul stands out among those who made excuses for their failures. When confronted by Samuel upon his return from fighting the Amalekites, Saul tried to blame “the people” for taking forbidden spoil, and rationalized that it was acceptable because the things taken would be used for sacrifices (1 Samuel 15:20,21). Samuel, of course, did not agree (vs. 22,23).

One of the classic methods frequently employed in the art of self-justification is to compare oneself to someone who is viewed as ‘worse.’ ‘I may not attend services as regularly as I should, but I’m present more often than bro. Soandso.’ Or, ‘I may have a bad temper and I often display it, but I recently heard one of the other members burst out in rage, and he even used curse words.’ Or, ‘I may not give much to the church, but I’ve watched what some of the people around me put in the plate, and I’m giving more than they are.’ . . . and the examples could be multiplied.

The inspired apostle Paul destroyed forever the work of these ‘self-justifiers’ when he said: “We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). Learn the lesson. A right standing with God is not determined by finding someone ‘worse’ than you are. Anybody can do that! Think!

**- by Greg Gwin**