

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!

The Psalms are such a wonderful treasure of the understanding of life. Whether it be David, Solomon, Moses or Asaph, the Psalms speak to the issues of life. They detail the problems which fall upon the children of God, as well as the results of those who trust in the Lord and His ways.

Psalms 6 seems to speak to all these issues. The Psalmist begins by asking God to be merciful to him, and heal him. He then speaks of his own anxiety and difficulty in sleeping at night because of his concerns (verse 6). It then ends with thankfulness that the Lord has heard his supplication and he condemns his enemies for thinking that they could stand against the Lord. But it is verse 5 which provides the thought for our title: *"For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" (Psalms 6:5)*

I don't believe that David is saying that when one dies that they have no memory, for that contradicts other plain passages of scripture. I believe what he is saying is that when we die, it is too late to call upon the Lord for any help. It's too late to remember what the Lord can do, for when one dies, God's Justice is secured. There is no way to change what God has determined. It is only while we live that God provides for us to seek His mercy and grace and forgiveness. It is only while we live that God allows for us to make changes in our life. When we die, the only event left for us is judgment. Don't wait until it is too late to secure God's mercy and forgiveness. Obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ and you will have peaceful nights, and a happy judgment!

- by Jim Walsh

Public Corrections

When Johnny is sitting at his desk at school and writes with his pencil "2 + 2 = 5," the teacher may look over his shoulder and privately call attention to his error. Johnny can, almost unnoticed, take his eraser and rub out his mistake. The class may never know that Johnny mis-added "2 + 2."

But if Johnny writes "2 + 2 = 5" on the chalk board, and all the class is watching, the teacher does not really correct the error if she says nothing to the class, pats Johnny approvingly on the head, and then later takes him aside and explains his mistake privately. Nor can Johnny, upon discovering the error himself, sit and correct privately at his desk with a pencil eraser the mistake he made publicly at the chalk board. "Two plus two is four, Johnny," says the teacher before the whole class, and the mistake that was made at the chalk board is corrected at the chalk board.

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. When I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all..." (Galatians 2:11-14). "Them that sin rebuke before all..." (1 Timothy 5:20).

Private sins and personal differences are properly to be corrected privately. Nothing is gained by publicity. But public error is properly to be corrected publicly. Remember, the mistake that is made at the chalk board before the whole class is not fully corrected with a pencil eraser at the desk after school.

- by Jere E. Frost

Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed how easy it is to find the time to do the things we really enjoy doing and how hard it is to find the time to do the things we do not enjoy doing? Could it be that this explains why it is so hard for some to find time to study the Bible or teach it to others, but seem to have no problem finding time to watch their favorite TV program or engage in some recreational activity?

Have you noticed how much our attitude toward something or someone can make any task either one of joy or one of weariness? The priests in Malachi's day viewed their service to God as "what a weariness is it" (Malachi 1:13). Their attitude toward God (a lack of love and devotion) caused them to have this attitude toward serving Him. Is it possible that the same could be true today? When we hear those who claim to be Christians complaining about everything they are called upon to do (assembling with the saints, giving, study of His word, etc.) it tells us a great

deal about their attitude toward God. Their attitude is the same as that of the priests mentioned in Malachi. More importantly, God's attitude toward them is the same, also. See Malachi 3:6; 1:10.

Brethren, let us make sure we have our priorities in order. See Matthew 6:24-34.

- by **James Hahn**

Resolutions Require Commitment!

A reportedly true story is told about a school principal who, at the end of the year, encouraged all his teachers to write out their resolution for the New Year. He promised to post these on the faculty bulletin board so that all could benefit from them.

When the resolutions were posted, all the teachers crowded around to read the suggestions from their co-workers. Suddenly one of the teachers erupted in a fit of anger. "Mine is not here! He's purposefully left mine off the board. He doesn't care about me. That just shows how little I'm appreciated around here!" The principal was shocked. He had not intentionally left anyone's resolution off the board. He rushed to his desk and found the missing note under a pile of papers. He immediately proceeded to post it. The resolution read: ***"I resolve not to let little things upset me anymore."***

What we see here is a clear case of resolution without commitment. All of us are guilty of this -- and it happens too often. Failed diets, abandoned exercise plans, neglected projects, etc., are all the result of lack of commitment.

But, without doubt, the most serious area of concern is in our spiritual service to God. At one time or another we have all said, "I need to do better, and I intend to do so!" It may involve our attendance at the worship services and Bible studies, or it might be in personal study and prayer. Perhaps it involves personal evangelism, visiting the sick, or sharing hospitality with other Christians. Whatever it might be, the resolve is good, but we need commitment to see the task through.

As we enter into this New Year, let's do some serious personal evaluation; make some needed resolutions; and then, FOLLOW THEM THROUGH!

- by **Greg Gwin**