

Warning Concerning Neglect

by Dean Moore

Normal life is filled with countless blessings or privileges. We can only begin to count all of them. Our life is the biggest form of life on earth. The best of doctors and scientist can only go so far in explaining the wonder of a living human being. So much has been done for man, including the giving of freedom of will. Shouldn't he be grateful for what his Creator has done for him? It would be normal for him to praise, and worship God! He created a reasonable being who is able to take into account the wonder of his life and give credit to Whom credit is due. Being reasonable indicates that he must respond. This response determines his future. Man's failure to respond to God by neglect, doubt, and rejection of the truth brings about a hopeless future.

Since man was created to live and has been given all that he needs (not only for his daily life, but finding eternal life), one would think that he would be interested in living forever. How sad to see that most people are not interested enough to at least to seek out the Giver of Life! There are many warnings concerning neglecting that which requires our complete attention. For example, we read in Hebrews 2:1-4:

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word “spoken” through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard. God bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

First Corinthians 4:7 says: “What do you have that you did not receive? And if you have received it why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” We are 100% dependent upon God's provisions for life! Therefore, how He thinks determines our future. Shouldn't His thoughts be our main concern? If we were to neglect this we would never know His great work of salvation on our behalf! Salvation from death and judgement comes by faith or trust in the life and work of Christ, God's only begotten son. The value of Christ's life to His Father is more than the value of the entire human race; therefore, He requires that a person must repent and trust Christ as his savior to find forgiveness and newness of life. What God has done for us in providing His Son is far more wonderful than we can even imagine!

Human pride, doubt, and neglect leave people under condemnation. A humble child-like attitude of trust enables us to take what our Heavenly Father offers to us. This is what is important! We read:

Thus says the Lord, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares the Lord. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at my word." Isaiah 66:1, 2

People are inclined to be occupied with many things while neglecting what is of extreme importance! Maybe we could illustrate the danger of neglect by a person driving his car the speed limit, and instead of looking at the road with oncoming traffic he is occupied with a computer in his hand. It seems to him that things on the road can take care of themselves while he studies his computer. He forgets that the traffic situation can change in a second. His is endangering his life and others by not thinking! Many people have died because careless drivers have neglected their responsibility.

People are inclined to put off things that they must do until a later time. This is why a very strong warning is given by Christ. We read: "Therefore be on the alert for you do not know what day your Lord is coming. For this reason you be ready too for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." Matthew 24:42, 44 (NASB)

He knew that people would be occupied with many things and not be looking for Him. Yet to be ready and waiting for Him is of supreme importance! If we do not take His warning seriously we could be left! Those who will be united with Him will be prepared to teach His way to the nations. If we fail to work with Him today, we will not be prepared to work with Him when He comes. He must become our teacher and master.

Hebrews 10:19, 20 speaks of a holy relationship with God made possible by Christ. Paul says that it is a "*new and living way*." It is the extremely high privilege of believers! It would seem that this is the most important work of God in the world today! Our Creator and His son have suffered beyond comprehension so that we could be reconciled and experience that highest good, both now and eternally. Would we be so foolish as to neglect this?

A true believer is given a foretaste of the life that is to come, by the presence of God's Holy Spirit in their lives. We read in Romans 8:14, 16, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God. The spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God." This assurance is given to every true believer.

We should be living for Christ's coming! Each day and each hour is so important because there is so much to learn and so much to unlearn or overcome to be able to work with Him. We need to learn how to cooperate with him and how to be united with Him now. This makes preparation certain.

Generally speaking, the thinking of this world is in opposition to the thinking of our Creator. Therefore, separation is essential. We must do what God requires! Note what He tells us in II Cor. 6:14 -17:1 (New Life Version):

“Do not be joined together with those who do not belong to Christ. How can that which is good get along with that which is bad? How can light be in the same place as darkness? How can Christ get along with the devil? How can one who has put his trust in Christ get along with one who has not put his trust in Christ? How can the house of God get along with false gods?

We are the house of the living God. God has said: “I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God and they shall be my people.”

The Lord has said, “So come out from among them. Touch nothing that is sinful. And I will receive you I will be a Father to you, you will be my sons and daughters says the All-powerful God.” Since we have these great promises dear friends, let us turn away from every sin of the body and the spirit. Let us honor God with love and fear by giving ourselves to Him in every way.

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