

## If We Neglect

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

To neglect something is to fail to provide care, or attention, to it. To do this always has consequences, both in this world and in the spiritual. **Ecclesiastes 10:18**, "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through." We have seen houses fall in because of lack of care. It is the same in our Christian lives, if we do not give attention to our walk with God, we will grow cold and indifferent.

Usually neglect of something happens when it is deemed unworthy of the effort to maintain it. Sometimes that which is neglected is not valued, or wanted, and so it is abandoned. Isn't that why some people stop coming to church? They are not satisfied for some reason, and instead of trying to find out why and fix the problem they stop going to church at all. I have talked to several people through the years who say, "I know that I should get started back to church. I used to go all the time, but quit." What they're saying is that they didn't have the

interest, or desire, to serve the Lord and to live for him so they drifted away from the Lord.

**Hebrews 2:3** says, "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." The word of God is too precious to let go of. It is the word of life given to us by our Lord. There is nothing more valuable and necessary in our lives. Even while most people will agree with that statement, many will treat God's word as something of little value. So many will not take the time to even read the bible, let alone try to study and apply it to their lives. They just want to be saved and go to heaven without doing anything but saying that they believe.

God wants us to know him, not just know about him. There is a big difference between the two. How can we know God? By reading his word, talking to him, and walking with him each day. That is what the men and women of faith have done. They didn't just go to a service once a week, but kept his commandment every day, always considering what the Lord had to say about the way that they lived. How did you pass a test in school? You went to class, read and did the assign-

ments, then when the test was given you knew what to do.

Isn't it the same, in a way, in living for the Lord? If a person doesn't bother to read and try to understand what the Lord says, how can he know what the Lord will want him to do? When church attendance and worship isn't thought of as being important in someone's life, how could he expect to have any power with God? Remember the man in **Acts 17** who, when the evil spirit was commanded to leave, said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" Those trying to command the evil spirit by saying "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." They couldn't use Paul's faith and walk with God to have power over the evil. They had neglected to have a walk with God and to know his son, Jesus, and to have their own faith.

We are in danger of having a shallow relationship with God if we neglect our walk with him. Going to church is not enough to insure either a close walk with the Lord, or our own salvation. If we are not interested in his word, not caring to know his will, and how we are to serve him, how can we expect to be a part of those who will praise him in heaven? Look at **Luke 6:46** and whatever you do, don't neglect the most important part of life - your relationship with God.

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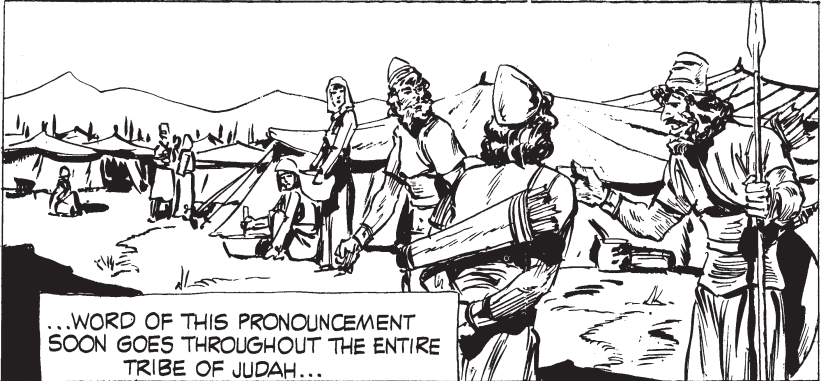
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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

### OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH

CALEB, SON OF JEPHUNNEH, HAS SAID THAT WHOEVER TAKES THE CITY OF KIR-JATH-SE-PHER, LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE GIANTS, WILL RECEIVE HIS DAUGHTER AS WIFE...



...WORD OF THIS PRONOUNCEMENT SOON GOES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRIBE OF JUDAH...

TO WIN CALEB'S DAUGHTER ACH-SAH, A MAN MUST TAKE THE STRONGHOLD OF THE LAST OF THE GIANTS?

BEHOLD, OTHNIEL! CALEB'S DAUGHTER IS COMELY TO THE EYE - ONE COULD NEVER WISH FOR A BETTER WIFE!



COME! LET US SEE THIS CITY OF THE GIANTS!



AND OTHNIEL, ACCOMPANIED BY SOME ADVENTUROUS YOUNG MEN, SPIES OUT THE CITY OF KIR-JATH-SE-PHER.

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