

If We Neglect

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

To neglect something is to fail to provide care, or attention, to something, or someone. 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.

Gods calls to mankind, giving the invitation to come out of sin and to receive salvation from Jesus, the Christ, and savior of the world. Of those who come and make a profession of faith, there are those who seem to have the idea that that is all there is to it. They make little, or no effort to grow in grace and knowledge of God. It is like they have the thought that they have made confession, now let them get back to the life that they want to live.

There is no instruction that they will take unless it goes along with what they want to do.

Even some who have been following the Lord for a long time are in danger of becoming cold and indifferent to the things of God. I have seen some over the years stop coming to some services and lose interest in the Lord's work. I am sure that there are some who are tired of me preaching that we should be reading our bibles, visiting the sick, and coming to church more. I wish that I didn't have to mention it so much, but it is what the Lord says, and I will continue to talk about these things as long as I have a pulpit to speak from.

Hebrews 2:1-3, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 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." When we stop reading and studying the scriptures we start to neglect our relationship with God. Any relationship needs to be

tended to, and will grow cold if neglected. If a person doesn't talk to, and walk with God, he shouldn't wonder why he doesn't feel close to him anymore. When that happens, remember this - God is not the one who moved away from the relationship.

We take the blessings from God day by day and many times never give them a thought. Yet, if he were to take them away from us, we would cry out, begging for them again. If he were to give us only as much as we were thankful for, how much would we get? God doesn't neglect us, it is man who neglects him. Notice how a person thinks of God when he has a problem? It is a shame that it takes some kind of trouble to make us think of a loving God, when he wants to be in our lives and bless us every day.

If, and when we neglect God, we are not doing him harm, we hurt only ourselves. He is still God and still desires that we wake up and see that we need to come back to him. It is up to us as individuals, whether we walk close to him, or not at all. He will do his part and keep his word, so if we don't forsake him, then we will be right where we need to be - walking with our Savior.

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HER NAME HAS BECOME PART OF OUR LANGUAGE—JEZEBEL!

IT HAS BEEN A CUSTOM, IN MODERN TIMES, WHEN A WOMAN ATTRACTS AND SEEMS TO EXERT UNDUE INFLUENCE OVER A MAN, OR MANY MEN, FOR PEOPLE TO CALL HER A JEZEBEL. HOWEVER, NO MODERN COUNTERPART COULD EVER COMPETE WITH THE ORIGINAL JEZEBEL FOR DOWNRIGHT EVIL AND MURDEROUS ACTS! BORN A PHOENICIAN-PRINCESS, DAUGHTER OF KING ETHBAAL, SHE MARRIED KING AHAB OF ISRAEL (CIRCA 865 B.C.). AND, IN SHORT ORDER, COMPLETELY DOMINATED THIS WEAK-WILLED RULER. ONCE AHAB WAS UNDER HER CONTROL, JEZEBEL IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT DESTROYING ISRAEL'S RELIGION AND REPLACING IT WITH THE WORSHIP OF BAAL AND ASTARTE, PHOENICIAN DIETIES OF HER HOMETLAND....

...SHE INSTALLED, IN THE PALACE, AND SUPPORTED, NINE HUNDRED PRIESTS OF THIS HEATHEN RELIGION AND, IN TURN, HUNTED DOWN THE PRIESTS OF ISRAEL AND SLAUGHTERED THEM WHERE EVER SHE COULD! LOUNGING IN ORIENTAL LUXURY IN THE PALACE, SHE DIRECTED THE POLICIES OF THE KINGDOM, WHILE AHAB SAT MEEKLY BY HER SIDE, NEVER DARING TO DISPUTE HER. HER SCHEMINGS, HER CRUELITIES, AND HER PASSION FOR BLOOD-SPILLING ARE RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF I KINGS. ONLY ELIJAH, THE GREAT PROPHET, STOOD UP AGAINST THIS WICKED QUEEN AND FOUGHT HER EVIL INFLUENCE AT EVERY TURN. HER OWN DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WAS PREDICTED BY THE PROPHET AND TOOK PLACE EXACTLY AS HE PROPHESED IT WOULD! (I KINGS 9:30-37)

NEXT WEEK: HE HAD TO REBUILD THE WALLS TO REBUILD A NATION!

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