

Planning to Fail

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water." 2 Peter 3:3-5.

You don't have to be a prophet to see that some folks will fail in a particular task. It may be in school work where the person doesn't put much effort into learning the material. The student may play games, watch TV, or do anything rather than study. They do poorly on the test and maybe fail the class and wonder why. Is it hard to figure out?

The same for a person who does poorly on a job. They arrive late, have their mind elsewhere, don't pay attention to what they should be doing and wonder why the boss is always on to them. When they are fired they think that everybody is against them, never considering that they are the real cause.

Even in a marriage the attitude plays a big part. When one, or both, people take each other for granted problems will arise. A good example of this is when one starts doing what he wants to do and doesn't consider the wife, she will resent this after awhile. Then she may start doing what she wants and it get worse from then on, unless they change their ways.

The same attitude holds true for many, maybe all, other areas of life. Even in our spiritual lives we can get off course if we are not careful. Over the years I have seen those who were once faithful to come and take part in the worship services cool off and some even quit altogether. They didn't intend for this to happen, but it did because they let other things creep in little by little. It may have started when they quit making it a priority to read their bible. Then missing a service once in awhile for one excuse or another and it became easier as time went on.

Then it got to where they didn't seem to care if they came to church or not. They didn't appear to realize it but the children watched them and copied mom and dad and they dropped out too. Some of the children would get into trouble and mom and dad were shocked and wondered why this happened to them and their family. Why did God let this happen to them they wondered? Really? Why did God let it

happen? No parents, why did you let it happen? You withdrew from God, he didn't leave you. As I heard one mother say once that she hadn't been in a church house in four months and then wondered why she couldn't get her child to come to church. It does make you wonder, doesn't it?

No, there is no need to wonder why we grow cold and distant from the Lord and lose our witness. It is a principal that is contained in scripture. *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," Galatians 6:7.* This holds true in all things, material, or spiritual. If you plant beans in your garden you will pick beans. If you sow spiritually in faith you will grow in faith. *"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8.* So it is easy to see that the result depends of what the efforts have been directed at. It is foolish to think that we can sow to the flesh and reap spiritual rewards.

"The best hope for our families and especially our children is to lead them to trust in the Lord. That is the best that we can do and we can't do it by just saying it, we have to live it for children, even the very young, can spot someone who just says something but doesn't do what they say.

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

EVIL HAMAN
HIS PLOT AT LAST REVEALED TO THE KING, HAMAN IS IN A FRENZY OF FEAR AS THE KING GOES INTO THE GARDEN TO CLEAR HIS ENRAGED MIND, HAMAN STUMBLES CLUMBSILY TO THE QUEEN TO BES FOR HIS LIFE...

SAVE MY LIFE...
OHHH!

THOU HAST BETRAYED MY TRUST IN THEE - NOW WOULDST THOU ALSO INSULT THE QUEEN IN MY OWN HOUSE?!!

HEARING THE CRY OF THE QUEEN, AND THE COMMOTION OF HAMAN'S FALL, ANASUERUS RUSHES BACK FROM THE GARDEN WITH AN ARMED GUARD...

KILL HIM!

PETRIFIED WITH FEAR, HAMAN KNOWS NOW THAT HIS LAST DAY ON THIS EARTH HAS ARRIVED...

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