

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,  
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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## Now Is the Favorable Time

**P**rocrastination is a problem that plagues us all from time to time. However, with some people, procrastination becomes a deterrent to success in both the physical and the spiritual realm. It is one thing to put off doing something that has little significance in one's life, but it is something else altogether when one puts off something that has lasting consequences, especially something that has to do with the soul. The Bible encourages us to avoid procrastination. How does the Bible do that? There are two things the Bible encourages us to do that will help us to avoid procrastination.

First, it encourages us to be diligent. Peter said, "*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...*" (2 Peter 1:5). The Greek word for diligence is *spoudē* (Strong) and means *to be filled with eagerness or earnestness*, and it points to doing something with haste. In fact, the Greek word literally means *speed*. So, Peter is encouraging us not to procrastinate. Instruction to be diligent is not rare in the New Testament. In fact, five verses later Peter gives such instruction again, this time with regard to making our election sure.

### **2 Peter 1:10**

Therefore, brethren, be even more **diligent** to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.

Serving God, then, is something that we should do diligently, that is, with energetic application. No one should have to talk you into attending every service of the local church. You should do it because you enjoy serving God, and you want to do it sooner rather than later. You should study the Bible regularly and pray often because those things help you serve God better. The one thing that can stop you from studying and praying, and, ultimately, serving God in general, is procrastination.

Procrastination is as much a mindset as it is an action. We sometimes have to war against ourselves in order not to procrastinate. We have to talk ourselves into doing something now instead of putting it off. Remember, Paul said "now is the favorable time." When it comes to engaging in spiritual activities, usually now is as good a time as any. But Paul's statement is doing more than just telling us that there will probably be no better time to serve God than now. It is telling us, now might be the only time that we have. The time will come when God will no longer be offering us the grace to serve Him. That time will be when either we die, or Christ comes back, and the truth is, we can't be sure when either of those events are going to happen. That is really why the best time to serve God is now, and procrastination should be avoided.

Second, the Bible encourages us not to be slothful (lazy), something that is pretty much the opposite of diligent.

## **Proverbs 12:24**

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

## **Romans 12:11-12**

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Laziness has stopped many people from taking advantage of the favorable time that God has given us to serve Him. Many have died in sin just because they have been slothful rather than diligent in carrying out God's commands. Sometimes people even forsake the assembling of the saints because they would rather just sit on the couch and watch their favorite television program. It is laziness that stops them from doing what is right, and it is laziness that will cost them their souls.

Paul not only said that now is the favorable time, he also said that now is the day of salvation. We don't know about tomorrow, but we have right now. Don't let procrastination cost you your soul.

*Don*

# **One Sinner Destroys Much Good**

Ron Daly

**W**isdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good. (Ecc 9:18)  
The title of this article comes from a statement of the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes in chapter 9, verse 18. It conveys a thought that each of us must consider. It tells us that a sinner wields a lot of influence, but it is the wrong kind and it is destructive! Notice that the text doesn't say that "many sinners destroy much good," but "one sinner destroys much good." Many times one sinner does more harm to the cause of good, than one righteous person does to a stampeding herd of ungodliness.

A preacher may be a very effective pulpiteer and he may have a firm grasp on the truth of scripture, but if he doesn't believe what he preaches enough to live it, he is himself a sinner who destroys any good that he achieves (I Timothy 4:11-12).

An elder may have tremendous leadership skills coupled with a broad knowledge of God's word, but if he doesn't practice what he requires about honesty, controlling the tongue, moral purity, and all else, he isn't fit for the position of overseer. He will destroy any good that he accomplishes (I Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:7).

A Bible class teacher may be kind, knowledgeable, and very practical in his application of scripture, but if he is a gossiper, quick tempered, listens to slander, and never asks forgiveness from those against whom he has sinned, any good that he accomplishes will be destroyed by his sins (Romans 2:19-24).

If others see people in the church who claim to be Christians, but whose lives are full of hypocrisy and evil, then any good that is accomplished by the congregation will be destroyed (Hebrews 10:26-29).

We should promote good instead of destroying it. If our lives are not what God says they should be we are destroying the good that we or other saints seem to be achieving. We must repent of our sins and start anew. Christians, if there is sin in your life, stop it and turn to God. Then and only then will the good that we and others are trying to do will not be destroyed.