

# EXCUSES

## Int.

1. Aim: To show that excuse making is an old habit and to answer some of the common excuses made for not obeying the gospel or not being faithful.
2. Luke 14:16-20 " **A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse."**
  - a. They all began with one consent to make excuses
    - i. The word means - to beg pardon, to refuse or decline
    - ii. They made excuses because they had no interest in the feast.
  - b. The excuses:
    - i. I have bought a piece of land
      - (1) He would not have bought it without looking first
      - (2) The land would not be gone when the feast was over.
    - ii. I have bought 5 yoke of oxen - go prove them
      - (1) He would have tried them first
      - (2) He could have proved them the next day.
    - iii. I have married a wife
      - (1) He didn't ask to be excused - he just could not leave his wife.
      - (2) There is nothing that shows he could not have taken her with him to the feast
3. Today the Lord Jesus Christ invites all men to come unto Him for salvation and safety, saying, "**Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28).

- a. Unfortunately, many have heard the gospel and know God's will, but have not yet become a Christian (follower of Christ).
  - b. What about you? If you already know the truth, but are not yet a Christian, then may we ask, what hinders you from becoming one today?
4. Consider a few excuses or defenses that people sometimes offer as an explanation for why they have not yet become a Christian.

### Discussion

**I. THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT DOCTRINES** - preached that I do not know which is right. If wise men differ, how am I to decide which is right ?

A. The Bible is right

1. Take the Bible and carefully examine it and what others teach
2. 1 John 4:1 - try - test - sample them **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."**
3. The doctrine in the Bible is the one for us to follow

B. There are counterfeits

1. A counterfeit piece of money is an imitation of something genuine
2. There are many varying doctrines taught but that is evidence that there is a true doctrine.
3. You must study your Bible - the great counterfeit detector - so you can find out which is counterfeit and what is genuine.

C. Division and false doctrines will not excuse you from reading and studying the Bible in order to learn and obey the truth.

## **II. "I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH YET"**

- A. A DESIRE TO LEARN MORE IS COMMENDABLE...
1. There is a lot more that I would like to know!
  2. But being a Christian involves a growth process...
    - a. A lot of the teaching takes place AFTER we become disciples Mt 28:19-20
    - b. In fact, one can become a Christian with very little knowledge
- B. HOW MUCH DOES ONE NEED TO KNOW?
1. Consider the examples of conversions in the Book of Acts...
    - a. Most conversions resulted after just one lesson; how many lessons or sermons have you heard?
    - b. When the Ethiopian eunuch wanted to be baptized after just one lesson, it was "faith" that was necessary, not "extensive knowledge" - Acts 8:35-37
  2. If you understand, and are convicted in your heart...
    - a. That you are lost in your sins
    - b. That Christ offered Himself on the cross for your sins
    - c. That you can receive the benefits of His death through:
      - (1) Believing in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God Acts 8:37
      - (2) Repenting of your sins - Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30-31
      - (3) Confessing your faith in Christ - Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37
      - (4) Being baptized for the remission of your sins - Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
      - (5) Remaining faithful to the Lord - Rev. 2:10
    - d. -- Then you know enough to receive salvation and begin the Christian life!
- C. [Then there are those who admit they know enough, but say...]

### III. **"I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL I AM SURE I CAN LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE"**

or "I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH YET, I WANT TO IMPROVE MY LIFE"

#### A. THIS IMPLIES A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...

1. Some believe they are expected to act like mature Christians right away
  - a. They look at those who have been Christians for years
  - b. They know they cannot act like that immediately, so assume they must change themselves completely before becoming Christians
2. Again, they forget that being a Christian is a growth process - 1 Pet. 2:2
  - a. We start out as "babes in Christ", often still carnal in behavior - 1 Cor. 3:1-4
  - b. But we are to grow, gradually putting off the "old man" and putting on the "new man" - 2 Pet. 3:18 **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."**

#### B. IN FACT, ONE CANNOT LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST!

1. If you wait until you can live the Christian life to become a Christian, you will be waiting forever!
2. In your present condition and manner of life, how long do you think it will take you to be "good enough"?
3. As long as one serves the Devil he can never be "good enough" to serve Christ.
4. **"Evil men and seducers will wax worse and worse"** not better and better. 2 Tim. 3:13.
5. It is only in Christ that we receive the strength to overcome the struggles of the flesh - Rom. 6:17-18; Rom. 8:12-13; Phil. 4:13
6. We need Christ and His strength in order to truly reform our lives!

## **IV. "I WILL LATER... BUT NOT NOW. THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME."**

### A. PROCRASTINATION IS ONE OF SATAN'S GREATEST WEAPONS...

1. He delights in using it on us at every stage of life; he gets the:
  - a. 12 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too young to think about God"
  - b. 18 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too smart to think about God"
  - c. 22 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too happy to think about God"
  - d. 25 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too busy to think about God"
  - e. 30 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too smug to think about God"
  - f. 40 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too tired to think about God"
  - g. 50 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too worried to think about God"
  - h. 60 year old to delay by saying "I'm much too old to think about God"
2. Much too often, death comes unexpectedly, and then it is too late to think about God!

### B. Solomon says...

1. Eccl. 12:1 **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."**
2. It is better to begin serving God before the heart is scarred by indulgence in sin.
3. But if you are older and have not obeyed the gospel, why do you wait?
  - a. Suppose you should die?
  - b. Could you be saved by your intention to become a Christian?
  - c. You expect to live a long time, but you have no guarantee of another day.
  - d. Today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may never come for you!

## V. **"I AM TOO MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN"**

- A. The excuse some people make is that they are not good enough to obey the gospel and become a Christian. I've done so many evil, bad things in my life that there is no way for me to change and become a Christian.
1. How long will it take for you to get good enough while you are still serving the devil?
  2. Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance
  3. Matt. 9:13 **"I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**
  4. If you are a sinner then he came to save you
- B. Are you really that bad ?
1. Are you worse than the murderers of Jesus ?
  2. If they could be saved, couldn't you?
  3. Peter told them on the day of Pentecost that they had crucified and slain Jesus. - Acts 2:23
  4. And many of them obeyed the Lord that day and were saved.
  5. Peter preached to them - they were pricked in their heart. They asked what to do - Peter told them - they obeyed and were added to the saved that day.
  6. You can do the same.
  7. Paul was chief of sinners - 1 Tim. 1:15 - but he became a Christian **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."**

**VI. "I AM TOO BUSY TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN JUST NOW."**

- A. Yes you are busy !
1. Will you take time out to die ? Heb. 9:27.
  2. Will you take time out to appear before the judgment bar of God? 2 Cor. 5:10.
- B. Remember that the seeds that fell among the thorns were those that were choked out by the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world. Lk. 8:14.
1. Martha was "**cumbered about with much serving**", but Mary "**chose the better part.**" Lk. 10:38-42.
  2. The foolish virgins were not ready. Mt. 25:1-14.
  3. Felix was not ready. Acts 24:25. - convenient season
- C. Jesus said: "**Therefore be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh.**" Mt. 24:44.
- D. Would you agree to obey the gospel next week? What about next month? Next year?
1. You should realize that you have no promise that you will even be alive at any future day or hour.
  2. It is a very dangerous thing to become so caught up in the things of this life that you do not have time to obey the Lord. Mt. 6:33; 1 Kgs. 20:40; Jer. 8:20.
- E. You do have time to serve God for this is the reason for life. Eccl. 12:13

**VII. "THERE ARE HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH"**

- A. TRUE, BUT THERE ARE HYPOCRITES EVERYWHERE...
1. It is with great sadness that we admit that, yes, there are some people who call themselves Christians, but do not live in harmony with the gospel of Jesus.

- a. Like the Pharisees in the time of Jesus, "they say, and do not" (Matthew 23:3).
  - b. In some cases, the conduct of a non-Christian is even better, from a moral point of view, than the conduct of some members of the church.
  - c. This is a shame.
2. But, if one who is out of Christ can show that his moral behavior is better than that of an unfaithful child of God, would this prove that he (the one still out of Christ) is in a saved relationship with the Lord? Absolutely not!
  3. In the PTA, civic clubs, etc.; do hypocrites in the stadium prevent you from enjoying a good sports event?
  4. Their sin of hypocrisy is no excuse for you to continue in YOUR sins (remember, two wrongs don't make a right!)
  5. Do you want to spend ETERNITY in hell with ALL the hypocrites?
- B. SOME OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER...
1. Jesus did not refuse to worship in the synagogues though the religious leaders were hypocrites
  2. Peter, James, John and the rest of the apostles did not leave Jesus because Judas was a hypocrite!
  3. **"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"** (2 Corinthians 5:10).
    - a. Did you notice in this verse that each of us will have to answer to the Lord for what we ourselves have done, and not for the actions of others?

- b. Thus, the question that all of us need to ask ourselves is not, what do I see other people doing, but rather, what does the Lord require of me?
- c. We have no desire to defend the hypocrisy of anyone, but at the same time we must say plainly that if we allow the unfaithfulness of others to hinder us from faithfully serving the Lord Jesus, then our faith is not strong enough.
- d. Regardless of what others do, we must put our faith and hope in the living God and serve Him, for in Him there is no hypocrisy, but only that which is good and holy (I Peter 1:21).

## **Conclusion**

1. Excuses are just that excuses - trying to avoid making a decision -
2. Procrastination = to put off habitually or intentionally something that should be done
  - a. It is an escape mechanism - delay, postpone, tomorrow
  - b. Procrastination has sent more souls to hell than any other one thing.
  - c. Few have ever died unprepared who had not intended to become a Christian
  - d. But they put it off for one reason or another until it was too late.
3. Prov. 27:1 **"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."**
4. The time has come for you to become a Christian?
5. We plead with you to lay aside all the excuses and submit to the Lord's will in being baptized for the remission of your sins.
6. Acts 22:16 **"And now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."**

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com