

(2) Tomorrow may bring death (Hebrews 9:27) — It is _____ unto men to die once, and after this the _____. According to statistics, people of all ages are dying at a rate of two a second, 120 a minute, 7,200 an hour, and 17,000 a day. Our appointment with death is one we can choose to ignore, but we cannot avoid. Could you die tomorrow? _____ (James 4:14).

Luke 16:26 — Between paradise and the place of torment there is a great _____ fixed so that whosoever would _____ from one side to the other cannot. After you die, if you end up in fiery torments, is there any way to change your destiny and enter heaven? _____ If you die today, is the day of opportunity gone for you? _____ (John 9:4). For this reason, it is urgent that you obey Jesus now while you have the opportunity.

URGENCY

Hebrews 3:15 — Right now, while it is said, _____ we are hearing the voice of Jesus. Are we to harden our hearts in rebellion? _____

2 Corinthians 6:1,2 — We receive the grace (favor) and love of God in vain when we reject or put off obeying the gospel. God has heard and helped the human race by sending his Son, Jesus Christ. Behold, _____ is the accepted time, _____ is the day of _____."

Acts 22:16 — Back in lesson 6, we studied how in every case of conversion, the person seeking salvation was baptized immediately, the very same day he/she heard the gospel of Jesus. Ananias even told Paul in Acts 22:16, "And now why are you waiting (tarrying)? _____ and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Dear friend, why are you waiting? The wisest decision you could ever make would be to serve Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28-30).

Conclusion: The Bible verses you have studied during this course have given you a lot to think about and hopefully have opened your eyes to many Biblical truths that you may have been confused about previously. Are you willing to set aside human thought and walk in the teachings of Jesus as he originally ordained them? _____ Do you wish to serve God and to be baptized into Christ and be a part of the church you read about in the Bible? _____ Please contact the person who gave you this course with any question or doubt you may have. He/she is here to assist you in your obedience to Jesus.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton
THE FOLLY OF DELAY
Lesson 15



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

We hope you are glad you made the decision to study the Bible by means of this course. It is very commendable to study God's word. However, the Scriptures themselves teach us that we must not be "hearers only but also doers of the word" (James 1:19). In this study we want to reflect upon what the Bible says regarding the folly of delay.

2 Timothy 3:7 — We are not to be people who "are ever _____ but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Psalms 119:60 — David said "I made _____ and did not delay to keep Your commandments." You have studied God's commandments in these Bible lessons, should you decide this very moment to begin keeping Christ's commandments or should you wait? _____

Take a moment to compare your life with what you have learned from the Bible throughout this 15 lesson Bible course by answering these personal questions:

- Have you been baptized in such a way that your baptism meets all the precise Biblical requirements? _____ (See lesson 7)
- Do you observe the Lord's supper each Sunday in memory of Jesus as the disciples in Troas did in Acts 20:7? _____
- Do you worship at a congregation that takes up a monetary collection only on the first day of the week as 1 Corinthians 16:1,2 teaches? _____

- Do you worship at a congregation where the women are silent during the church assembly as 1 Corinthians 14:34 teaches? _____
- Do you worship at a congregation that respects the silence of the Scriptures by worshipping God in song without instrumental music? _____
- Do you celebrate the Lord's supper each week in communion with other Christians using one cup and one loaf as Jesus commanded? _____

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, then we encourage you to make haste and not delay in conforming your life to Christ's teachings as he originally delivered them.

Acts 17:30,31 — The times of this _____ God winked at and overlooked, but _____ commands all men everywhere to repent. We are to repent because judgment day is coming when we will stand before Jesus Christ and have to explain why we refused to follow his teachings exactly as he delivered them.

EXCUSES

Matthew 21:28 — God is commanding all of us to go work _____ in His vineyard. Should we wait till tomorrow to go work in this his vineyard? _____

Luke 14:16-20,24— Christ is inviting every person to feast on the rich and abundant blessings of salvation. He said "Come, for all things are now ready" but they all with one accord began to make _____. One said he couldn't obey Jesus because he had to go see his property, another because he had to go test his oxen, and another because he was newly-married. These all missed out on the spiritual supper which represents salvation and ultimately heaven because they had some excuse.

Today many people refuse to become Christians, active members of Christ's church because they feel that God's commands are too narrow and strict.

Yet Jesus said "My yoke is _____ and my burden is _____" (Matthew 11:30). Others offer propose the following excuses:

- "The Christian life is too hard."
- "I'm waiting on my mate."
- "There are hypocrites in the church"
- "I don't know enough."
- "I'm not good enough."
- "I'm too young." "I'm too old."

If you come to God in obedience, will He help you overcome any and every excuse? _____ What is your excuse for not obeying the gospel? Will God accept your excuse? _____

DESPISING GOD'S PATIENCE

2 Peter 3:9 — The Lord does not delay in keeping His promises, but He is _____ toward us, not willing that any should be

lost but that all come to _____. God has been **patient** with you and me these many years, but His patience will wear thin if we continue to spurn his invitation.

Romans 2:4— It is possible for us to _____ the riches of God's goodness, and forbearance and _____. Is the reason God has not yet condemned all humanity to hell for our disobedience because He is good and patient, giving us time to repent? _____ When we delay our obedience to the gospel are we despising and abusing God's goodness? _____

Acts 24:24-25— Peter preached Jesus to Felix and reasoned with Felix about _____, temperance (self control) and _____ to come. Felix was afraid and responded to the gospel by saying, "Go away for now, when I have a _____ time (season) I will call for you." The "convenient" season to give your life in service to Jesus will never come. The time for obedience is now.

WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING

Proverbs 27:1 — We are commanded not to _____ about tomorrow because we do not know what _____ may bring forth.

(1) Tomorrow may be the second coming of Jesus (1 Thess.5:2,3) — We can be certain that Jesus will come unexpectedly

like a _____ in the night. He will take us by surprise. He may come tomorrow. He may come today!

2 Thessalonians 1:8,9 — When Jesus comes, it will be tragic for those who procrastinated in their obedience to Jesus. He is coming in flaming fire taking _____ on those who do not know God and on those who do not _____ the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.