

February 2, 2020

Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

Why Do You Wait?

By Kyle Campbell

An oft sung phrase is “Why do you wait, dear sinner, Oh why do you tarry so long?” Christians should see the urgency of obedience and godly living. Perhaps we can understand why someone who has no spiritual training does not urgently obey Christ. Yet strangely and sadly, some Christians never see the urgency, either. Why is it that the very ones who have “every spiritual blessing” in Christ must be pushed and prodded to love Him above all else (Mk. 12:29-31)?

Why do you wait to give your best to the Master? God is deserving of the very best we have to offer Him, whether it is our time, our energy, our attitude or our possessions. We are to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1).

Why do you wait to get involved in the work of the congregation? There is plenty of work to do. Every member can make positive contributions toward the spiritual strength and welfare of this church (Eph. 4:16). Everyone can pray for this church. Everyone can worship God together. Everyone can show brotherly love and kindness. There is much to do.

Why do you wait to forgive one who has sinned against you? None of us are without sin. Why then do we demand that everyone must always be perfect in their treatment of us? And when they aren’t, our attitude toward them is forever changed — hesitant, reserved, suspicious. Such unmerciful treatment of others will surely reap a lack of mercy for us in the day of judgment (Matt. 5:7; Jas. 2:13). When your brother sins against you, or when you know your brother has something against you, reconcile quickly (Matt. 5:23-26; 18:15).

Why do you wait to develop godliness in thought and deed? Spiritual growth comes through dedicated effort. We must choose to be nourished by the gospel of Christ (1 Pet. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 3:18).

Why do you wait to become a Christian? There is no greater joy than having your sins forgiven in Christ. Seize the moment to be saved, to no longer be lost in sin. Your sin will bring you to eternal death. You have no guarantee of tomorrow. Now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2).

“Why do you wait?”

Study Your Bible

Words That Describe Me Now

By John Isaac Edwards

In time past, I “. . . walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” (Eph. 2:2-3).

I am not who I was. My life has taken a different direction; that I “. . . no longer should live the rest of time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God” (1 Pet. 4:2).

I would like to share with you some words that describe me now:

1) ALIVE. I was “. . . dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1, 5), but have been “quickened. . .” (Eph. 2:1, 5; Col. 2:13). Now, I am “. . . dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

2) LOVED. I was “. . . by nature the children of wrath. . .” (Eph. 2:3). Now, I am the object of “. . . his great love. . .” (Eph. 2:4). John wrote, “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

3) SAVED. I was among “. . . them that are lost” (2 Cor. 4:3). Now, “. . . saved” (Eph. 2:5, 8). Paul wrote, “. . . God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

4) IN. I was out — “. . . without Christ...and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). Now, I am in — “. . . in Christ. . .” (Eph. 2:10, 13). God’s blessings have always been in: in the ark (Gen. 6-7), in the house (Ex. 12:22), in the city (Num. 35:25, 28), in the ship (Acts 27:31), and now in Christ (Eph. 1:3)!

5) RECONCILED. I was “. . . far off. . .” (Eph. 2:13). I have been “. . . made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13). “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph. 2:16). Romans 5:10 says, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

6) CITIZEN. I was a stranger and a foreigner (Eph. 2:19). I have been “. . . translated into the kingdom of his [God’s] dear Son” (Col. 1:13). Now, “. . . fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:19).

(Continued from page 2)

7) BLESSED. Paul penned, “. . . Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Rom. 4:7-8). Galatians 3:8-9 teaches, “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” Thus, I am “. . . blessed . . . with all spiritual blessings. . .” (Eph. 1:3).

8) REDEEMED. Peter wrote, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ. . .” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). As one who has been redeemed, I have been “. . . purchased . . .” (Acts 20:28) or “. . . bought . . .” (1 Cor. 6:20).

9) NEW. The Holy Spirit revealed, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). The Galatians were taught, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Gal. 6:15). Ephesians 4:24 records, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

10) FREE. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). He further stated, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (Jn. 8:36). The Romans were reminded, “But God by thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Rom. 6:17-18).

11) FORGIVEN. What a blessing to be forgiven! “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:13). Paul, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7).

12) WASHED, SANCTIFIED, JUSTIFIED. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 records, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

I am a believer; a Christian; a disciple; a saint. What made the difference? God's grace. My faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

Something Learned From Mules

By W. R. Jones

A mule can't pull while he's kicking, and when he is pulling he won't be kicking. It is the same in the church. When saints have their feet in the sand pulling hard to do the will of God, there is no time for kicking, nit-picking and complaining. To the contrary, when we are given to kicking, gossip, and idleness we never move the gospel chariot forward. Also, when one has two or more mules hitched together they have to pull at the same time to move the load. This is also true in the Lord's church. Pulling "together" accomplishes great things.

*Visitors — We pray that you
benefit spiritually from our
worship together and hope
to see you again.*

February Birthdays:

The 1st Roseanna Carter; the 6th Jay
Stewart; the 11th Mary Lynn
McCartney; the 17th Austin Hisaw;
the 20th Shirley Pike; the 22nd Peggy
Thomas; the 25th Don Haynes

Postage
Stamp

Valley Grove Church Of Christ
2110 East Stateline Road
P. O. Box 461
Southaven, MS 38671

This Bulletin is a weekly publication of the
Valley Grove Church Of Christ, Southaven, MS

Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132

www.valleygrovechurchofchrist.com