

Tomorrow May Be Too Late

No. 143

Introduction.

- I. One morning a farmer's clock ran amuck and struck seventeen. The farmer frantically ran through the house shouting, "Get up, get up, it's later than it has ever been before!" And it may be later than we think! Most of us do not really feel it is dangerous to wait until tomorrow, and often leave undone things that need to be done today.
- II. But one of the most dangerous words in any language is the word "Tomorrow." It has robbed multitudes of success. It has been the ground of countless Satanic victories. It has slammed the gates of heaven and opened the gates of hell for innumerable souls.
- III. Someone has written these thought-provoking lines.

The clock of life is wound but once, And no man has the power To say just when the hands will stop; At late or early hour.	Now is the only time we own To do His precious will, Do not wait until tomorrow; For the clock may then be still.
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- I. **Too Late For Training Children** - Tomorrow may be too late for training children.
 - A. David once asked this heartbreaking question concerning his son, Absalom, who was rebelling against him, "Is the young man safe?" (2 Sam. 18:32).
 1. The answer was "no." His son and 20,000 other men had been killed when they fought against David's troops.
 2. One of the saddest things about David's question was that it was asked too late. It should have been asked during the day when the boy was being permitted to grow into manhood without proper discipline.
 - B. It may be too late tomorrow for us to ask that question concerning our children. We would do well to ask it now. We would do well to ask it during the pliable years of their lives.
 1. Sometime back **the business manager of a hospital** told of a family who was in desperate need of help. It was a Latin-American family of farm-laborers, who had been spending the winter in a house which gave little protection from the element - the walls were made of tin. With no income, they had tried to brave the winter. They had made their way to the hospital one night when a five-year-old son had lapsed into unconsciousness from hunger. The boy was dead on arrival. A three year old daughter died the next morning..she had starved to death. Those parents, who had meant well not wanting to ask for assistance, will live with the haunting remembrance of the starving faces of their children the rest of their lives.
 2. Many other **parents will have to live with even a greater guilt** unless some changes are made. I am speaking of parents whose children are starving to death spiritually. I am speaking of parents who are not very concerned with the spiritual training of their children. I am speaking of parents who do not bring their children to church and teach them God's word. I am speaking of parents who do not teach their children to pray and who do not give them a good example to follow.
 - a. **A man once said to the preacher**, "Preacher, I am afraid that my son is dying. I wish you to talk to him

about his salvation.” The preacher went into the young’s man bedroom and started talking to him but found him totally indifferent. Finally, the preacher said, “Oh, son, your father is so interested in you being saved.” The young man looked up and said, “What did you say?” And the preacher replied, “Son, your father is deeply interested in your salvation.” The young man said, “That is strange. I am twenty-one years of age. I have lived at home all my life. My father has never said one word to me about God and salvation.”

- b. **How tragic!** Many mistakes can be covered by that wonderful “second chance” - but not the training of children. We only have one opportunity with them.
3. Let’s remember that our “children are a heritage of Jehovah” (Psa. 127:3) and let’s speak to them now about salvation, and train them up now in the way they should go!
- a. Solomon said. (Prov. 22:6). This verse put another way says, “Train up a child in the way he should not go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
 - b. Paul said. (Eph. 6:4). The word of God teaches fathers and mothers to teach and train their children.
 - c. Some **back my oldest grandson** was sitting in a church service with his mother. The preacher was speaking on the subject of teaching and disciplining children.. He was emphasizing many of the things I have been emphasizing today. My grandson needed to be excused. His mother walked him to the forger. As he was about to go into the bathroom, he looked up at his mother and said. “I hope you are listening to that preacher.” I hope she was. I hope she and every mother and father will listen to that preacher and every preacher who teaches the importance of teaching and disciplining children. God’s word teaches we are to teach and correct our children today. Tomorrow may be too late.

II. Too Late To Be Kind - Tomorrow may be too late to be kind.

- A. All of us know of **visits** we should make, of **letters** we should write, of **kind words** we should speak, of **kind deeds** we should do. But we keep putting them off saying, “I will do them tomorrow.”
- B. But tomorrow may be too late.
 - 1. The loved one or friend or neighbor or stranger may be gone. We should be kind today.
 - 2. An unknown author has written these powerful words on the urgency of acting now.

Don’t Wait A Minute

<p>If you have hard work to do, Do it now. To-day the skies are clear and blue, To-morrow clouds may never come in view, Yesterday is not for you— Do it now.</p> <p>If you have a song to sing, sing it now. Let the notes of gladness ring, clear as song birds in spring. Let each day some music bring— Sing it now.</p>	<p>If you have kind words to say, Say them now. To-morrow may not come your way, So do a kindness while you may, Loved ones will not always stay— Say them now.</p> <p>If you have a smile to show, Show it now. Make hearts happy, roses grow, Let the friends around you know, the love you have before you go— Show it now.</p>
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3. Several **years ago an elderly couple** received a letter and later gave it to the preacher and asked him to read it when he had time. He removed it from his coat pocket the next day and found it was a letter from the couple's son. Here is what he wrote.

Dearest Mother and Dad,

On several occasions I have tried to write this letter. However each time I've tried, I have found it difficult to express what is in my heart so I have delayed. I still do not have the exact words, but I want you to know that I think you are the finest mother and father in the world. I pray that we can be our to our children the kind of parents that you have been to us.

Dad, I remember the first time that I discovered you were not like other fathers. We had gone to the football game to watch Baylor play. Baylor had moved to the ten yard line of their opponent when I told you had to be excused. You asked if I could wait for a little while. When I said "no," you didn't become angry, or say you would never bring me to a football game again. You simply took me out and bought me a soda as we came back to our seats.

I remember when I was in high school I always got the car on Friday and Saturday nights. You never mentioned that this meant you must walk twenty blocks to your work, work all night, and walk home the next morning.

Then there was the incident about your old blue suit. John and I were both ashamed of that suit when you visited our college campus. When we told you that you ought to buy a new one, you replied, "I'm not trying to impress anyone, I've already won my girl." We didn't realize then that finances would not permit you to keep two boys in college and buy new clothes.

Mother, do you know what I remember best about you? Your laughter. You were never too busy to play with us or read to us, or talk to us about God. I still remember, when we were boys, the Sunday evenings when we went to your room, sat in a circle, while you told us a story from the Bible or talked to us about how good we ought to be and how much we ought to love God. We knew that God must be something very special by the way you loved him. There were always clean shirts in the closet and socks in the drawers, but we never stopped to consider how they got there. Now I remember the many times I've seen you scrubbing clothes in the bathtub over a washboard—that's how they got there.

The memory of our family's ideals, purposes and efforts is one of the stoutest reinforcements of my life, and one of my most precious possessions. I shall always be grateful to you. May God continue to bless and keep you.

Love, Your Son

- a. When the preacher returned his letter to this grand old mother and father, the father said, "We own our home and car and all the furniture, but that letter means more to me than all these things combined."
- b. Let's be kind to our parents now and express our gratitude to them now. Tomorrow may be too late.

III. **Too Late To Win A Lost Soul** - Tomorrow may be too late to win a lost soul.

- A. We all know someone who we intend to win to Christ. Someday, not too long from now, we are going to visit that person and talk to him about his soul and lead him to Christ.
- B. But we let fear, the affairs of this world keep us from talking to the person about his soul. Then one day we receive a telephone call or read in the newspaper that the person we intended to win to Christ is dead. He was killed in an accident or suddenly died in his sleep. Now it is too late! He has died lost! Oh, the sin, the tragedy of waiting until tomorrow.

IV. **Too Late For Obedience** - Tomorrow may be too late for obedience.

- A. One cannot read the Bible without becoming aware of the urgency of obedience. (Prov. 27:1; Jn. 9:4; Heb. 3:7, 8).
- B. **Every preacher** has preached funerals of men and women, teenage boys and girls who intended to obey the gospel, but met death before obeying. Most preachers have preached the funerals of those who expressed intentions of rededication of unfaithful lives...but never did.
 - 1. When **Felix** heard Paul's sermon on "Righteousness, self-control, and the judgment" he was terrified and knew he should give his life to God at that very moment. But, he rejected the opportunity, promising himself he would obey "tomorrow" when it would be more convenient. But a convenient season never came. He went to his grave saying, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I will obey Christ."
 - 2. **A merchant sat at his desk** with papers all around him. A man came in and said, "I have come to talk to you about a very important matter." The merchant said, "You must excuse me. I am too busy to talk to you today." The man said, "When shall I call? I want to talk to you about your relationship to God." The merchant replied, "I can't tell you when to call, I am busy every day." The man sadly left. A few days later an unwelcome stranger came to the merchant's office. This stranger laid a cold hand upon the brow of the merchant and said, "Come with me." The man began to make excuses, but the stranger would not listen, for the name of this stranger was Death.
 - 3. This man did not think he would die so soon. He intended to die saved, but he waited too long. He was too busy for God, but he was not too busy for death. He died unprepared to meet God in the judgment. Let's not make this mistake and wait too long to obey God. Procrastination will damn our souls.

Conclusion.

- I. In 1775 **Patrick Henry** traveled up and down the east coast of our nation making his famous speech, "The Call To Arms." In this famous speech he said, in part, "They tell us, Sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we stronger? Will it be next week or next year?"
- II. I would like to ask, "If you do not come to Christ now, when will it be? Next week, next month, next year? Will there be more evidence of the divinity of Christ? Will the teachings of Christ be any different? Will the steps that you must take be changed? Will you have had more time for study and contemplation?" It is my judgment that the answer to all of these questions will be no. There will be no new evidence of the divinity of Christ; there will be no new commands in Christianity. The steps one must take to be saved will not change. There will not likely be more time for study and self-contemplation. Nothing will be changed except the changing of our own attitudes and that can be done now as well as later.
- III. **We all believe in God, Christ and the Bible.** We all intend to be saved in heaven. We all know we are sinners in need of the mercy of God. We all know what we must do to be saved. We must believe in Christ as the divine Son of God; we must repent of our sins; we must confess the name of Christ before men; and we must be buried

with our Lord in baptism for the forgiveness of our sins. Then, we must live for Christ the remainder of our days.

A. **Paul said.** (2 Cor. 6:2).

B. Everything is ready. All that is needed is a decision. Will you accept Christ? Will you come now? It may be too late tomorrow...but you can come today. Come as we sing the hymn of invitation!