

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 690 January 24, 2019

When God Says “Enough”!

Bill Brinkworth

God is so good to give us many opportunities to turn from our sin and to turn to Him. Too many confuse His mercy and grace with His toleration and allowance of sin. Although different for each person, one day God’s forbearance for sin will stop and God’s lesson for us or the consequences of our iniquity will begin.

The sin of Noah’s day was raging. None of it escaped God’s eye. People of the time thought that they had gotten away with it. Their wickedness waxed worse. God saw “... that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). God was “sorry” that He had created man because of their sin. It was time for the wage for their sinful labors to be paid and for their iniquity to cease.

In all the sinful chaos, God did see one righteous man, Noah. After he, his family, and selected animals were safely inside the ark Noah built, God's actions said, “Enough of that sin.” The world-wide flood put an end to the world’s evil-

doings. In this case, God's people (Noah and his family) were spared the consequences. Man had another opportunity to start over again thanks to one man's not doing what everyone else was doing.

Man's sinful nature remained, however. Iniquity will always be a battle, and it continued especially in the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). After tolerating their iniquities for so long, there came a time when God would no longer put up with their sins of sodomy and other sexual sins. It was apparently "enough" for God. Shortly after God's own were removed, the city was destroyed. Nothing of life remained. Grace had ended for their sin.

Jonah also learned that there was a limit to the trespasses God would tolerate. Perhaps he thought he had gotten away with his disobedience of not going to Nineveh, as he was commanded. Maybe he even thought his going to Tarshish was an acceptable substitute to God.

Shortly, Jonah learned otherwise. As a pounding tempest pummeled the ship and crew, the wayward child of God learned that God was saying, "Enough. You're going no further in your sin." The rest of the story tells how God got Jonah's attention, and how Jonah's rebellious heart was changed to willingly want to obey his Creator.

In the early church at Rome, there came a time when God's people felt God's "enough", but much differently. They thought they knew better and purposed to ignore the Lord's commandments. They thought they were so smart. They

didn't receive a lesson to teach them to obey their Father. Instead, the time for grace and second chances had passed. God let them reap the consequences of their sins. It was as if God had said, "You want to continue to sin so badly, I will allow it to take its natural course and let it destroy you." Three times God stated that He gave them over to their sin (Romans 1:24, 26, 28).

Throughout the Bible, a merciful God has tried to get His children to do right. Today is no different. He desires that we obey the first time. Many have lost and suffered much because they did not. His goodness and mercy in teaching us only goes so far.

Some have faced jail, failure in school, loss of friends, accidents, a destroyed marriage, and many other consequences to get their attention to turn to God. God desired them to "learn and turn." Others have hardened their sinful hearts, and were on their own and reaped devastation.

If we are saved and trusting God's way to live, we have His promise of Heaven, but even we battle sin. No one in their right mind wants to pay its penalty. While the heart is still sensitive and unhardened is the time to repent of its commission before God has to deal with it. Be a fast learner in this area and not slow.

Do not confuse God's mercy and graciousness with a license to sin. No sin is okay. There could be a time where God has to say to you, "Enough." Shudder at the thought.

Why go through the trials, testing, and discipline? Obey and serve him now. Obey and repent now before it is too late

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for what so ever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:7-8

"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail." Pro. 22:8

Obituary

Author Unknown

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was once a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and Bible study. She soon grew to worldwide prominence and was one of the most influential members of a famous church family.

For the past several years, Sister Prayer Meeting has been failing in health. She gradually wasted away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees and coldness of heart, inactivity, and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last, she was but a shadow of her former, happy self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reformer, and Dr. Joiner disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They administered large doses of organization, socials, contests, and drives, but to no avail. A post-mortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with lack of faith, and general support were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power.

In honor of her passing, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, except the third Wednesday of each month, when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society will serve refreshments to the men's softball team.

“In the Christian life, we must lose to gain; we must give to obtain; we must be last to be first; we must be humble to be exalted.” — *Author Unknown*

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

Author Unknown

Friend, have you thought of this?
When life is o'er, where will you be,
If now the way you miss?
Can you escape if you neglect
All that the Lord has done?
What mercy then can you expect,
If you refuse God's Son?

Now is the time to heed God's call.
Christ is the only way.

Trust unto Him your life, your all,
Do it without delay.
Blessed assurance you will find
If you will believe,
For there is joy and peace of mind
To all who Christ receive

Who Should Not Give to Missions

Author Unknown

- Those who believe that Jesus made a mistake when He said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ..."
- Those who do not believe that the Gospel of Christ "... for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
- Those who wish that no missionary had come to their forefathers and would prefer to be still lost and on their way to Hell.
- Those who believe that everyone in the world should worry about themselves and not help others.
- Those who believe that God will not hold them accountable with the money He allowed them to earn and have.

"Some people go through life standing at the complaint counter." — *Author Unknown*

Follow the Detour

Bill Brinkworth

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:6

No one likes the aggravation of being slowed down in going to his destination by a road detour. One has to change direction another way. We are not in control, and we have to follow someone else’s plan to get us to where we want to go.

“Who do those construction people think they are? Making me go this long way. Why, I just want to go a little way down the road.” However, we obey the signs and the flagman, and we get there safely. We may not have been able to say that if we didn’t obey them.

Too many ignore the “flagman” God has put in our path to move them in another direction — His direction. Maybe that test you failed, even though you “studied your brains out,” was a “flagman” to get you to know and later witness to a tutor, or to get you to study more efficiently. If you cheated and passed, you would not be going down the road God had planned for you.

Maybe the family split, although not God’s first plan, has something you could learn. Sticking it out and praying through the problem may have helped you so divorce never happens to you, or you can minister to others in that situation. Running away from that situation would be going

through the “detour,” and you would not have learned what God intended for you to get out of the experience.

Use your imagination to see how God could use the “bad” things in your life for His and your good. He is aware of the “roadblock” you experienced or are experiencing. God may have allowed it in your life so you would spiritually grow or be strengthened.

A Christian should be sensitive to the leading and as well as the halting of the Lord. Give Him credit for all that happens in your life. Let him direct you!