

The Night Comes

Jesus realized that his time on earth was small and his mission from God was great, so he said in John 9:4: "We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night comes, when no man can work." We too should have the same attitude toward the Lord's work. Here are some important lessons.

First, Jesus was driven by a sense of **divine compulsion**. He realized that he "must work". Second, Jesus was driven by a sense of **divine authority**. He realized that he must work "the works of him that sent me". Third, Jesus was driven by a sense of **divine urgency**. He realized that he must work "while it is day; the night comes, when no man can work". Jesus knew what was first and important in his life - the father's will (Luke 2:49; 4:43; 13:33). Jesus also knew that he had but a "little while" to do it (John 7:33; 12:35).

Can we as Christians today have the same drive and compulsion as Jesus? Or, have we lost our sense of urgency regarding our spiritual life? Do we understand that procrastination is worldliness and a tool of the Devil (Amos 6:3; Acts 26:28)?

The fact is, the "night comes" when we can no longer save ourselves and others around us. Let us get a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12) and let us redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16). The Devil says "tomorrow", but Jesus says "today". Friend, the night is coming! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.
- There may be a wrong way to do the right thing, but there is never a right way to do the wrong thing.
- We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
- Having trouble falling asleep? Do what Grandpa did. Work!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Rotten Apples Corrupting Our Society - Part 2

In last week's bulletin, we examined three "rotten apples" that are corrupting our society: Darwinian evolution, Freudian psychology, and the sexual revolution. Here, we want to examine two more.

4. Banning of God and Prayer

Chief Justice Earl Warren, a liberal U.S. Supreme Court judge, led the decision in 1962 and 1963 to ban Bible reading and prayer from public schools. The removal of God from the public (school) and private (home) lives of Americans has led many to an increase in abortion (1973), drug use, gun violence, crime, etc.

Randall Price writes: "These decisions affected our society's moral consciousness ... by making humanism the only religion sanctioned in the public education system and demeaning the value of human life. Over the years since these anti-values became a part of our national values, we have witnessed degeneration in our society, especially with our youth who never knew other values once were accepted and practiced under the law in our nation."

"We have also witnessed the gov-

ernment and the private sector increasingly apply these anti-values in ways and to an extent that may never have been envisioned by the justices that rendered their original decisions (such as prayer and the mention of God at commencements and sports events and expressions of public faith ...)."

"However, while expressions of Christian values are prohibited or denounced, these anti-values are marketed wholesale through the entertainment industry (movies, TV, and video games) that saturates our culture with trivial violence and death, creating the illusion that wanton murder is just a game and the hero is the one with the 'baddest' weapons! This was one of the traits of the young man who murdered the teachers and children in Connecticut" ("What's Wrong With Our Country?" *World of the Bible News & Views*, Winter 2012, p. 21).

Contrary to this anti-God lifestyle, we must keep God at the center of our life (Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 4:17-23; 1 Peter 4:2-4).

5. The Liberal Media

All the "rotten apples" discussed thus far (and many others) are carried along on the apple cart of the liberal media

(compare Revelation 13:5 and 13:14-15). Daily indoctrination and propaganda of ungodly beliefs comes to us in our TV news, radio, newspapers, Internet, movies, music, etc.

Contrary to this liberal, human wisdom, we must get our wisdom from God and his word (Proverbs 3:5; James 3:17-18).

What is a Christian to do who is living in such a rotten and corrupt society? Consider four things:

First, be able to identify these "rotten apples" as a part of the godless and grievous times that we are living in (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Second, don't be susceptible and open to the influence of these "rotten apples"; stay away from evil men (2 Timothy 3:6-9).

Third, ignore these "rotten apples" and look to godly examples for your influence (2 Tim. 3:10-13).

Fourth, use God's word to guide you in the way of truth and combat these "rotten apples" (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

- Chris Reeves -