

# WHAT IS YOUR Response to the GOSPEL?

*That is not for me! (I Reject)*

A pastor was troubled by one of the members in his church. This man was lazy and refused to live correctly. The pastor, hoping the Word of God would bring a change, preached a sermon designed with him in mind. As the man left the church, he commented, "Pastor, you really told them today!"



One day it happened. It rained so much that no one showed up for church, except the troublesome man. The pastor was so excited. Today the man would know that the message was for him and would hopefully respond accordingly. The pastor began preaching with great enthusiasm listing all the man's shortcomings. As the man left the church he said, "Oh, pastor! If they had been here, you would have really told them today."

Many times people allow the preaching (of the gospel) to go over their heads and hit their neighbor instead. Our response is, "This is for someone else. It is not for me!" But, the gospel is for YOU!

*Not now; maybe later! (I Neglect!)*

"...Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). This man neglected the truth given and procrastinated (put it off until a later time). He was shocked by the penetrating power of the gospel, but when he saw the price of the commitment, he put it off. He wanted the preacher to go away and leave him alone. He was saying "do not call me, I will call you". People like this neglect and put off a reaction until it is a more convenient time.

That time never comes! Neglect can be fatal. Some say, "I will not make a decision right now. I will decide later." Without realizing it they have actually made a decision. The writer of Hebrews said, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3).

"...Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:27-28). Agrippa claimed to be "almost" persuaded. Almost persuaded means not persuaded. Some other words or phrases for "almost" are "nearly, not quite, just about, on the edge of, close to." Almost is not good enough. We must be both "almost and altogether" (Acts 26:29) persuaded just like Paul.

Consider these: To almost be clean is to be dirty. To almost believe is to doubt. To almost tell the truth is to lie. To almost win is to lose. To almost be right is to be wrong. To almost be straight is to be crooked. To almost be saved is to be lost. To almost become a Christian is to remain a sinner.

*That is for me! (I Accept!)*  
*Now is the right time!...*

"...Behold, **NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation**" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

**Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?** (Acts 2:37). (This is one of the important questions in Acts.) They were eager to accept the truth.

*How can you be saved?*

"Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**" (Acts 2:38).

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