

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Inactivity

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." – Edmund Burke, letter to William Smith, January 9, 1795

"Between the great things we cannot do and the little things we will not do, the danger is that we will do nothing." – H.G. Weaver

Many people fail to realize that one of the greatest problems we face is not what we do, but what we fail to do. You no doubt know the verse, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Inactivity can get us into a world of trouble. In fact, it is in idleness that we are very vulnerable. John Bunyan once remarked, "An idle man's brain is the devil's workshop."

In our idleness, Satan finds much with which to occupy our minds. Jesus made reference to it when He said, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matt. 15:19). When we are inactive is when we can dwell upon these sinful thoughts. And we have to be careful that we don't so think upon them that we do something we might regret.

One of the biggest culprits that have led to our astounding idleness is the television. One statistic mentioned that the average child, by the time they reach the age of 18, will have witnessed some 200,000 acts of violence on television.

A good way to illustrate this is in Jesus reference to demons. "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation" (Matt 12:43-45). An empty house, i.e. an idle mind, likewise, invites evil.

If one does not fill his or her mind with good (Phil. 4:8), such things as television gladly will find something for you to dwell upon. And while some of what we view is no doubt fine, we need to be careful about the many things which the world promotes; such as, homosexuality, living together without being married, adultery, violence as a solution, greed, avarice, envy, jealousy, murder, etc. Satan has plenty of things for you to think about in your inactivity. Be active!