

Messenger Of Truth

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

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Procrastination

One person cries out, "I have not yet begun to procrastinate."

"...who waits until circumstances completely favor his undertaking will never accomplish anything." – Martin Luther

"Procrastination is like a credit card. It's a lot of fun until you get the bill." – Christopher Parker

If we are honest with ourselves, we may well find that we are really bad when it comes to procrastination. We often tend to put things off until the last minute. And it may not be just one thing but a number of things, and then we find that the situation is overwhelming.

You may have heard the story of Elisha Gray. He was an electrician who worked in the city of Chicago. He reportedly filed a patent for the telephone two hours after Alexander Graham Bell. All the fame and fortune of one of our greatest inventions was lost to him because of the delay of two hours.

In the Old Testament we learn the story of Lot. The Lord had determined to destroy the cities of the plains along with Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot had asked to flee to Zoar. The biblical account reveals however, that Lot procrastinated. "When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city" (Gen 19:15-16).

One of our greatest examples in Scripture is found in the New Testament book of Acts with the story of Felix the Governor. "And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you" (Acts 24:24-25). There is nothing in historical writings to suggest that Felix ever followed up with Paul.

In Paul's writings to the church in Corinth, we find the warning against procrastination: "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:1-2).

Procrastination is our enemy and certainly not our friend.