

July 11, 2020

Happy Sabbath everyone! As you all know, the Clark's are on their annual family vacation in north-central Alabama and Mr. Clark asked if I would fill in for this week's Sabbath Note.

Most of us have been a part of God's Church for a very long time. If we were to consider our ten, twenty, thirty and some fifty-plus years of history in God's Church, I think all of us could easily identify one or more members that pop into our minds as those who are (*or were*) passionate about the work of God. **Those who are/were very zealous to serve and be a part of God's Church...in every possible way!**

Hopefully this describes you and me. Truth be told, God expects nothing less from those whom He has called to champion His beautiful way of life today. All that said, there is a condition that the Bible warns us of. A condition that is often cloaked in phrases like, "*Nobody will miss me if I just stay home from Church and relax this Sabbath. After all, the Bible says to rest on the Sabbath, right?*"

Of course I am not talking about those with valid age and health concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus. The condition I am writing about is actually a state of mind that is very sneaky. If we are not spiritually prepared and ready for a surprise attack, in time it can sneakily slide in under the table and...viola... we have it! This sneaky condition is "*Spiritual Lethargy*". Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines the word *lethargy* as "*abnormal drowsiness*" or "*the quality or state of being lazy, sluggish or indifferent.*"

The author of the book of Hebrews (most likely the apostle Paul) knew that those he was writing to were in serious spiritual danger. It is interesting that most commentaries and biblical scholars believe that Hebrews was written to Christians who had a good knowledge of the Old Testament and especially the sacrificial system. This makes Paul's words even more serious! He was not speaking to people who did not have spiritual understanding. **They had it!**

In Hebrews 2:1,3 he shows great concern that they might "*drift away*" and thereby "*neglect so great a salvation.*" Then he says to them in chapter 5:11 a very direct statement...he says "*You have become dull of hearing.*" Wow, that had to sting his readers a bit...right? Paul was seeing the signs of spiritual lethargy everywhere and he knew he had to address it.

So what? That was then and this in now, right? **What does it have to do with us in God's Church today?** Well, just as the Apostle Paul warned his readers *then* about spiritual lethargy, these same scriptures warn us *today* of the exact same condition. And the Apostle Paul wasn't the only writer to beat on this drum. Found in many other passages of the Bible, we are warned to not waste this priceless high-calling we've been given *now* by becoming spiritually lazy, sluggish and or indifferent. We are told to make the most of our calling and we are also told to help others of the same mind and spirit to do the same. In Hebrews 3:13, Paul said to his brethren, those who were "*Partakers of the heavenly calling*" to "*Exhort one another daily, while it is called Today.*"

So let's do the same. **While it is today...let all of us encourage each other to keep the faith, and this, brethren, will help us all in the fight against spiritual lethargy.**

Lyndi and I hope to see many of you tomorrow in Bentonville. Have an awesome Sabbath!!

Dennis