

MY CONVENIENT SEASON

“And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” (Acts 24:24-25).

Felix responded to Gospel preaching exactly as others have done, He believed, knew his spiritual needs, and feared the consequences of his sinful life. However, he was not ready to do anything about it right then.

The man wanted a convenient season to obey the Gospel and start living the Christian life. Convenient seasons seldom, if ever, come around for anything in this life. Most of the good and necessary things we do are done at inconvenient times. The devil is going to see to it that a convenient season for serving God is never going to come. Even when a situation is the most ideal and convenient it can be, there are going to be other things more convenient, and the devil will continue to whisper, “Wait for a more convenient season.”

Without realizing it, Felix let the most convenient season he likely would ever have pass him by, leaving him forever lost and doomed for the judgment he so greatly feared. Felix had heard the faith from an inspired apostle. Whereas others obeyed the faith (Acts 6:7), he did not. He learned of this need to turn to a life of righteousness and self-control, but he did not. He was emotionally touched, but did not follow through.

It was not convenient for the believer Felix to complete the necessary steps which would have led to his salvation. Though he trembled in terror of the coming judgment, he did not repent (Lake 13:3). Repentance is a change of mind about a sinful life and a determination to turn from it. That is not convenient. He did not confess his faith in Christ (Mat. 10:32). He was a high government official who associated with important, high-class people—all of whom were unbelievers.

What would they think? Would they lose respect for him? Would they ridicule or shun him? Would he lose his political appointment? He was not baptized for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 2:38). It might be embarrassing for others to see a man of his stature submitting to a humble and strange (to others) act. No, it was not convenient for him to do these things at this time, but it would never again be more convenient.

All earthly seasons are very short for us. Even the pleasures of sin last only for a season (Heb. 11:25). Our preaching and service to God is to be “in season, out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2). We must not grow weary in following God’s will, because in due (proper) season we shall reap our reward (Gal. 6:9). Heaven will finally be our eternal, convenient season for serving God.

Darrell Beard *from Beacon*

REMEMBER

When things are not going the way you wish them to go, nor in the way you think best, **remember**: “It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23).

When the things you have received are not the things you wanted, **remember**: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights” (Js. 1:17).

When you are depressed with the cares of this life, and you do not think yourself capable of going on, **remember**: “The peace of God, which passeth all understanding” (Phil. 4:7) can be yours.

When you try to live right, but fall victim to sin, **remember**: the Psalmist declared, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:11).

When you feel your temptations are greater than you can bear, and you fear that their weight will soon collapse your supports, **remember**: “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able” (1 Cor. 10:13).

When you feel that no man before you has ever carried the kind of load you must carry, **remember**: Jesus carried His cross to Calvary (John 19:17).

When you think that your contributions of time and effort are useless, and that you can offer nothing to God worth-while, **remember**: Paul declared that your labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).

When you feel that you are incapable of learning God’s Word, and that you are unable to find the truth you are seeking, **remember**: Jesus promised, “seek, and ye shall find” (Mt. 7:7; Jn. 7:17).

When you feel that you have no influence on the lives of others, **remember**: “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself” (Rom. 14:7).

When you feel that no one cares for you, **remember**: Jesus cared enough to die for you.

When you feel than no man loves you, **remember**: Jesus loved you enough to offer salvation to you.

When you feel that no one is your friend, **remember**: Jesus said, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (Jn. 15:14).

When you feel you need guidance, protection, comfort, hope, and consolation, **remember**: “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring” (Acts 17:28).

Whatever the need, whatever the problem, **remember**: Jesus of Nazareth, “who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Tim Smith *from Eastside Edifier*

“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”

2 Peter 1:12

BIRTHDAY

Myron Nebergall, 01-19.

ILL

Sunday: Jessica and Jennifer Carter (PM), Lynda Cole.
Wednesday: Janice Carter and family, Chris Edwards.
Those battling cancer: Kathleen Camp's sister-in-law and Bo Marcum's sister; Ledgia Campbell is home and will begin her therapy January 18. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, Kim Clark, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

AT HOME

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to the Stillwell family in the passing of Curtis' father, Wayne Stillwell on Monday. Funeral services were held Friday, January 13.

OUT OF TOWN

David Adams will be in Nebraska for another week of training. Jeremy Keifer was away last week.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 15, 2006 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

George Thomas will present the 2006 budget to the congregation this Sunday at 5:15 PM in the auditorium.

SATURDAY SEMINAR

The Saturday Seminar at the 39th Street congregation will meet on January 21 at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 AM.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 59; Sunday PM, 49; Wednesday PM, 47.

Those To Serve

January 15, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER John Carter
PRESIDE..... Gary Cole
ASSIST.....John James
ASSIST.....Joe Brewer
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Ken Greer
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jeremy Keifer
LORD'S SUPPER..... Gary Cole

WEDNESDAY 18th

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Michael Simmons

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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