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“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

February 2025

No. 470

ARE YOU TOO COMFORTABLE?

We live in a world of conflict that comes in many forms. Sometimes it is easy to give in or compromise to avoid an uncomfortable situation. Is that the right thing to do though? Not always. We were meant to not always be comfortable. There are trials throughout our life, and if we can overcome them, we could have an eternal reward.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (2 Cor. 4:17)

There are times that we have a choice to make. Are we mak-

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ing the choice that is right with God or are we doing what *we* think that we should do? Sometimes, they are the same thing, but not always. Sometimes what we think that we should do is far from what God would want.

Moses lived a life of luxury with the Pharaoh. He was being raised by the Pharaoh's daughter and did not have a want or need. He could have continued that path and had a life of richness and power, but he chose to be uncomfortable because he knew what God wanted.

In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. (Acts 7:20-23)

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. (Heb. 11:24-26)

Moses chose to suffer affliction. Think about that for a minute. He knew what would happen if he rejected being a child of the Pharaoh's daughter and did it anyway. We have other examples of people choosing to be uncomfortable. Saul of Tarsus lived a life that was comfortable to him. He persecuted Christian Jews and had authority, yet he chose to become an apostle of Christ. He chose to be persecuted, being put in jail because he chose to be uncomfortable at the present so that he could be with God for eternity.

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in

the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Php. 3:4-11)

In our present state, we do not have the same types of choices to make, but the choices that we make have the same implications. The choices and our willingness to be uncomfortable can affect our salvation just as much as it did for Paul. Paul chose pain, and he chose to lose all that he had so that he could serve God fully. We get comfort from a lot of different things: technology, sports, media, relationships, etc. These things can also cause us to become something else: complacent.

Complacency is defined as self-satisfaction, especially when accompanied by being uninformed or unaware of actual dangers or deficiencies. It is living in a way that shows that reper-

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cussions are not always being considered. Some other synonyms of complacency are self-secure, content, untroubled, unbothered, at ease. It is a major problem in our present time. We become complacent with things around us and do not consider their effect on salvation. We miss services for vacations, work, or to attend a ball game (even little league). We make decisions based on feeling or emotion such as choosing a different church that has a youth program because “it will be better for our children” or we choose a church with a contemporary service because it makes us “feel better.” More recently, people have gotten used to missing services or only attending online services. This trend began with the lockdowns put in place at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic but has not stopped for some people. These are all comfortable choices. It is typically uncomfortable to explain why we do not use instruments or to explain to our children why their friends say what we do or don’t do is strange. It is uncomfortable to plan vacations around making sure that there is a church available to worship at on Sundays. It is uncomfortable to go against what our fleshly bodies and minds want in order to do what God wants. Even the disciples had a problem with it.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Mat. 26:41)

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:34-36)

What is the danger in being complacent and comfortable? The danger is that we do not know when our last breath will be taken on this earth. We do not know what our last words

or thoughts will be or if we will have time to repent of our complacency.

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. (Mark 13:33-37)

Complacency while serving God also brings out another quality. We do not have a strong fire for God if we are complacent, and at the same time, since we believe in God, we are not completely cold either. This is a very bad position to be in, as the church at Laodicea found out.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16)

It is a scary thought to be lukewarm. Being complacent to the things around us could be a hinderance, so instead we should do things that are uncomfortable at times so that we can receive the ultimate reward from God.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and

salvation. And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf. (2 Cor. 1:3-11)

A. D.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What is the first recorded dream of Joseph, son of Jacob?
2. What sin stopped Moses from leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land?
3. What was unusual about the 700 Benjamite soldiers who could sling a stone and hit their target every time?
4. In the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, what did the Pharisee thank God for?
5. How many times did Jesus say you should forgive your brother when he sins against you?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Abram was rich in gold, silver, and what else?
CATTLE (Gen. 13:2)
2. Who prayed for the fiery serpents to be taken away from Israel? MOSES (Num. 21:7)
3. How long did Jonah say it would be before Nineveh was to

be overthrown? FORTY DAYS (Jon. 3:4)

4. What did Jesus say is the “great commandment in the law”? TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL AND MIND (Mat. 22:36-38)
 5. Demetrius of Ephesus was a...? SILVERSMITH (Acts 19:24)
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PROVERBS ABOUT LAZINESS

*Go to the ant, thou sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise:
Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
Provideth her meat in the summer,
and gathereth her food in the harvest.
How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?
when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to sleep:
So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth,
and thy want as an armed man. (Pro. 6:6-11)*

*I went by the field of the slothful,
and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;
And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
and nettles had covered the face thereof,
and the stone wall thereof was broken down.
Then I saw, and considered it well:
I looked upon it, and received instruction.
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to sleep:
So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth;
and thy want as an armed man. (Pro. 24:30-34)*

*The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting:
but the substance of a diligent man is precious. (Pro. 12:27)*

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
January 31 - February 2	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL Fri. Service 7:00pm Sat. Singing 6:00pm & Service 7:00pm Sun. 10:30am & 2:30pm	Kevin Mills & Christian Mills (Senoia, GA)
February 28 - March 2	Mount Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain. (Pro. 15:19)

He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. (Pro. 18:9)

A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. (Pro. 19:24)

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. (Pro. 20:4)

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. (Pro. 21:25)

*The slothful man saith,
"There is a lion in the way;
a lion is in the streets."*

*As the door turneth upon his hinges,
so doth the slothful upon his bed.*

*The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom;
it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.*

*The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit
than seven men that can render a reason. (Pro. 26:13-16)*