

THE SIN OF NEGLECT II

**“My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that you should minister unto him, and burn incense”
(2 Chronicles 29:11).**

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Regardless in which dispensation of the Bible we study, the sin of neglect has always been a serious sin in the mind of God. Jeremiah states, “Cursed be he that does the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keeps back his sword from blood” (Jer. 48:10). The word “deceitfully” can also be translated as “slothfulness,” and is counted as evil, even in the present Christian dispensation. A number of Bible passages indicate this is so (Heb. 2:3). Let’s look at some areas of our Christian life that may need to be “fixed up.”

First, Christians neglect their duty to pray and forget God. Not only is prayer a duty, but it is also a great privilege to be able to approach God. “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2). Paul’s admonition is to continue in prayer and to “watch,” which means to look for opportunities to pray to God. We may need to rearrange our schedules to make time for prayer. I am afraid far too many forget God by neglecting their duty.

Second, Christians neglect their duty to read the Bible daily; leaving them starved for spiritual food. To read and study the greatest book in the world is an immense privilege! Peter wrote, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2).

Third, it is amazing some Christians, neglect to faithfully assemble with the church—“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25-25). If we begin our reading with verse 24, we see one of the benefits of our assembling together, i.e., “and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Let’s try to outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and by looking for opportunities to do good.

Fourth, we have a duty to visit those in need and to keep our hearts pure. James states, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). We have an obligation to the church; we dare not neglect it.

Fifth, we have an obligation to bridle our tongue. James taught the tongue is a small member of our body, but one that can cause enormous damage, if used improperly. A great forest can be set ablaze by one tiny spark, and so it is with the tongue. The tongue can poison every part of the body and turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster. At time every one of us have neglected this teaching and have allowed our tongues to go unchecked. Study carefully James 3:5-12.

So many sins sprout from neglect. To neglect is to forget; in fact, God said beware lest you forget (Deut. 6:12). One area we dare not neglect is obedience to the gospel. If neglected, your eternal life with God is forever forfeited (Heb. 2:3). Remedy this situation today!