

Too Late

Children, you should be thankful for the opportunity you have to be saved and to serve the Lord at a young age. Do not let yourself or anybody else try to convince you that you are too young to do anything for the Lord. There are many examples in the Bible of different people that waited too long and it ended up being too late for them.

We can read in the book of Numbers about the spies which were sent to search out the land of Canaan. They said "surely it floweth with milk and honey." Yet they still said, "Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great."

Even though Caleb exclaimed, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are able to overcome," the other men that went brought up an evil report of the land. They said "the men of the land are stronger than we, and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:27-33).

Now we can read in Numbers 14 that the people murmured against Moses, Aaron, and

the Lord! The Lord tells them in verse 33 that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years! After Moses told this to the children of Israel, the people mourned greatly. Then they said that they would go up to the place which the Lord hath promised. But we can see that it was too late. The judgment of God was already given, and Moses said in verse 42, "Go not up, for the Lord is not among you." It was too late. They had missed their opportunity.

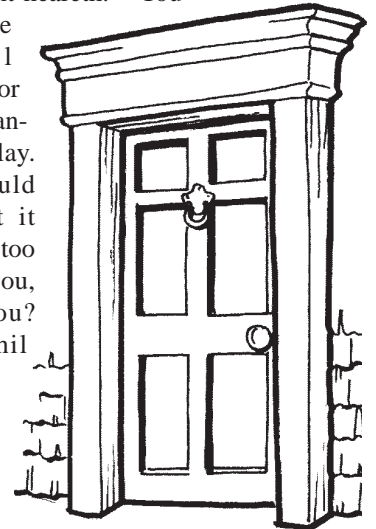
Another example is found in Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the ten virgins. We read here that there were ten virgins, five that were wise and five that were foolish. They went forth to meet the bridegroom. The foolish took no oil with them. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. When the cry was made to come out to meet the bridegroom, they all arose and trimmed their lamps. But the foolish said to the wise, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." But the wise said, "Not so; lest there not be enough for us and you: but go ye rather to buy to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."

Now when the bridegroom came, they that were ready went in to the marriage, and

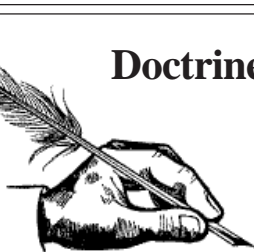
the door was shut. Afterwards came also the other virgins, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But it was too late and they missed their opportunity, for He said, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Oh, dear children, do not put off getting saved or doing what the Lord may be calling on you to do. The best time to get saved and to start serving the Lord is right now, yes, even as a child. If the Lord is calling on you, be like young Samuel and say, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." You

will be thankful you did, for there is danger in delay. You would not want it ever to be too late for you, would you? Bro. Phil Frazier



Doctrine Is for Children



The Atonement

*“...It is the blood that maketh
an atonement for the soul.”
(Lev. 17:11)*

The doctrine of the atonement is the most wonderful doctrine of the whole Bible. The atonement is the one and only way God has provided to take away all sin from all of mankind. Only by the atoning blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, can sin be taken away (Heb. 9:22, 26; 10:11,12,14,17; Acts 4:12; 1 John 1:7). John Baptist said of Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

The atonement was God’s plan from the beginning—it was His will from the foundation of the world that the Lamb (Jesus Christ) be slain to take away our sins (Rev. 13:8). Since the beginning of time, God has required the shedding of the blood of animals in sacrifice. By this, He was unfolding His plan, to mankind, that the blood of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) would be needed to remove sin. Atonement happened when Jesus died on the cross for all people. The shedding of His blood on the cross opened the way for all to be saved.

Jesus did not become sin on the cross. He always has been sinless, pure and holy. In fact, His purity is what qualified him to be the sacrifice for our sins. The apostle Peter wrote to the saints that we were redeemed “...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). The writer of the book of Hebrews also tells us that Christ offered himself without spot to God. (Heb. 9:14)

Sinless Jesus was not punished on the cross for our sins. He gave himself willingly as a spotless sacrifice. The punishment for sin is the second death in the lake of fire. Jesus didn’t die the second death. Our triune God (one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) are one in the work of salvation. God does not punish Himself. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost agreed that Jesus, in love, would offer himself on the cross to free mankind from their sins.

Jesus loved us and gave himself for us. “...He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth” (Acts 8:32). He didn’t murmur or complain when men crucified him. He submitted his will to the will of God and laid down His own life to die for our sins.

Jesus did not “take our place” on the cross. Had we died in our sins, “our place” would have been the lake of fire. Had we, ourselves, died on the cross, instead of Jesus dying for us, it would not have done one thing to help remove our sins. Jesus’ death on the cross made it possible for our sins to be removed. When our sins are gone, there is no longer a reason for us to be punished.

Although the atonement is available to every person, each person must do his part in order to receive its benefits. Only they who forsake their committed sins, call upon the name of the Lord to be saved, and live faithfully until death will enter heaven. These are the ones who truly believe in Jesus. (Rom. 10:13, Rev. 2:10, Mt. 7:21-23)

The atonement is seen in one of the best known verses of the Bible: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

Thank God for the atonement!

—Sis. Diane Ewing

Atonement

Atonement is the blood of Christ
That flowed on Calvary
For red, brown, yellow, black and white—
All souls including me.
(Lev. 17:11b; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Heb. 10:12)

To wash all of my sins away
Make me a creature new;
Old things have passed away for me
God’s will I’ll gladly do.
(2 Cor. 5:17)

To cleanse my heart from inbred sin
To wholly sanctify
A living sacrifice I am,
He lives in me, not I.
(Heb. 10:29; Acts 15:9; Rom. 12:1; Gal. 2:20)

To take my sickness and my pain
That I the world may tell
How Jesus saved me by His blood
And by His stripes I’m healed.
(Is. 53:5; Mt. 8:16-17)

To bring together all God’s sons
In blessed unity.
His glory shining from their hearts,
In Spirit all agree.
(Jn. 11:51-52; 17:22; Eph. 4:3)

Perfecting me in all good works
To do His holy will,
Well pleasing in His sight to be;
My soul in Him does thrill.
(Heb. 13:20-21)

To give me overcoming power
To men I testify
My life I love not to the death;
His Name I glorify.
(Rev. 12:11)

To change my body as His own
In twinkling of an eye;
When Vict’ry swallows up ‘ol Death
And sounds Archangel’s cry.
(Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:54; 1 Thess. 4:16)

—Sis. Diane Ewing



“...Go ye into all the world, and preach

MISSIONARY REPORTS

A Plea for Laborers

Dearest Children,

On my recent trip to England I was called to the streets to witness to the poor souls who were passing that way. It was my desire, yea, it was my burden to snatch some soul from the snare of the devil. As I stood on the corner hundreds of souls passed my way rushing as it seemed to their final destruction. It appeared as if they had not one thought of their everlasting soul nor their soon-coming eternal destiny. Some were happily walking along flashing in their jewels and gold. Others were stumbling through the path brokenhearted and torn by sin. There were old and young, rich and poor, all attempting to put on a show of satisfaction of heart. In the midst of all the chaotic pretense and show, I glanced upon a sight that changed my life forever.

There happened to walk by my post of duty a young, innocent child. He must have been around 6 years old. He was gaily dressed in the latest style with the latest hairdo. It was quite obvious that he came from a wealthy family. He appeared to have everything he wanted and more. It looked as though the boy should have been happy.

As he passed by he looked up into my eyes. His eyes seemed to plead with me to provide him with true happiness. It seemed as words for me to come to his and complete dissatisfaction, peace and joy. He was so of pain and sin.

The boy continued to face until he had totally little way and then he turned time he smiled but it was not a of resignation. A resignation life with no true purpose or nothing that could help him and emptiness.

As he disappeared from Tears began to well up in my to help this saddened friend.

Nothing I could do at all. As I stood there musing I began to ponder on the fact that this little boy was one of millions of children in the same situation. I wondered how many children were wishing for happiness right there in England. I was right there with the answer and yet so far away from being able to provide the solution. What could I do in a week's time?

Then I thought of you dear reader, and hope began to rise. I thought perhaps I could tell you this account and it would stir your soul like it did mine. Maybe, just maybe, you will catch the burden and stand to meet the need. Maybe you will be the one to go to England or some other country and find this boy and all the children like him before it's too late. Or perhaps you will be the one to bear a burden and spend much time in prayer.

I pray to God that all the *Shining Light* readers would feel personally responsible for the lost souls about us and rise up a mighty army effectual in the winning of many souls from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Surely there are many children who are wandering aimlessly about longing for what we have. May God help us to find these precious ones before their lives are completely wrecked by sin.

Sis. Elisabeth O'Shea

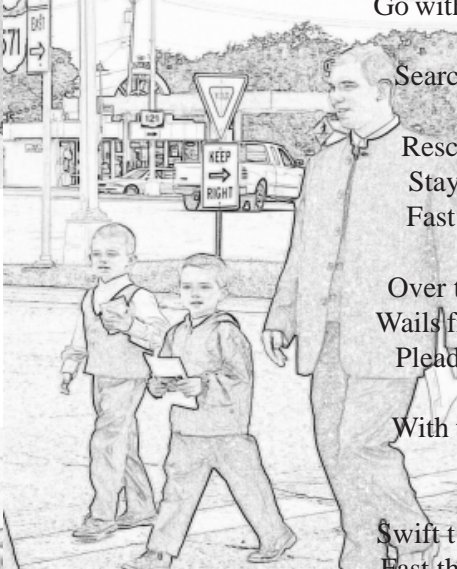
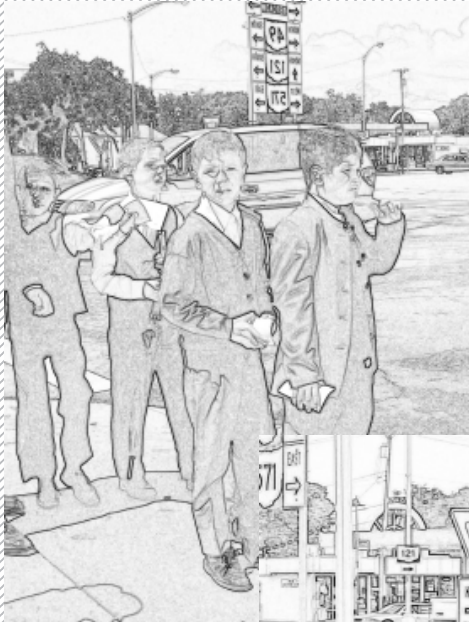


though he was crying in plain aid. I saw a picture of woe, pain, I beheld an empty life—void of young but yet so old in the ways

walk by keeping his eyes on my passed. He continued to walk a around to look at me again. This smile of joy. Rather it was a look to a life full of trouble and woe. A aim. A realization that he knew of escape his world of deep void

view my heart groaned within me. eyes. What, oh, what could I do Alas, it seemed as if there was

the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15



White Is the Harvest

White is the harvest calls the master for you,
Reapers are needed that are faithful and true;
Thrust in the sickle, all the sheaves gather in;
Go with gospel tidings, go the lost world to win.

Search in the highways, bid the wand'rer to
come,
Rescue the dying, all the lost gather home;
Stay not in idleness, the shadows will fall,
Fast the day is waning tell the story to all.

Over the billows comes a heart-rending cry—
Wails from the millions who in sin hopeless die,
Pleading for mercy; who will cross o'er the
waves,
With the blessed tidings, “Jesus saves, Jesus
saves”?

Swift t'ward eternity they haste, nor they wait,
Fast they are perishing, how sad is their state!
Work ere the day decline and soon come the
night,
Till the world is flaming with the pure gospel light.

Haste, then, ye messengers, nor tarry for dross,
Bid ev'ry guilty one to bow at His cross;
Washing away their crimson stains in His blood,
Till the world of sinners is redeemed unto God.

Clara M. Brooks



I'm so thankful to be saved and in the church of God. I'm very thankful for a Christian school to be a part of. You never will realize what a great privilege it is to be safe from all the devil's tricks and the bad influence of others.

We are safe in the church of God and have saved teachers and students to be around all the time and to challenge us to go all the way. So if the devil tries to make you feel like you have it bad or that you can never have fun, just look at all the little children out in the world and see how miserable they are. You will see that you really do have it good. Sincerely yours,
Sis. Rachel Cox (Age 15)
Ohio, USA

Praise the Lord!

I am very thankful to be saved and sanctified and to be in a Christian school. I'm thankful that I have the privilege to be in a place where I am challenged to do right.

I am thankful for saved teachers and students that care about your soul and are helping you make it to Heaven. Lord bless you,
Sis. Rebecca Cox (Age 15)
Ohio, USA

Praise the Lord! It is a wonderful privilege to be a part of the church of God. It is nothing of myself that I am saved, but it is just the mercies of God. I thank the Lord for the privilege to go to a Christian school. While many young people have to go to public school, I can go to a school with a spiritual atmosphere and wonderfully saved teachers. In public schools the teachers get mad at the students, but just think of the privilege to have the teachers we do.

It is easy to get used to coming together with saints every day, but I want to have a

greater appreciation for the church of God Academy.

Unknown Author
Ohio, USA

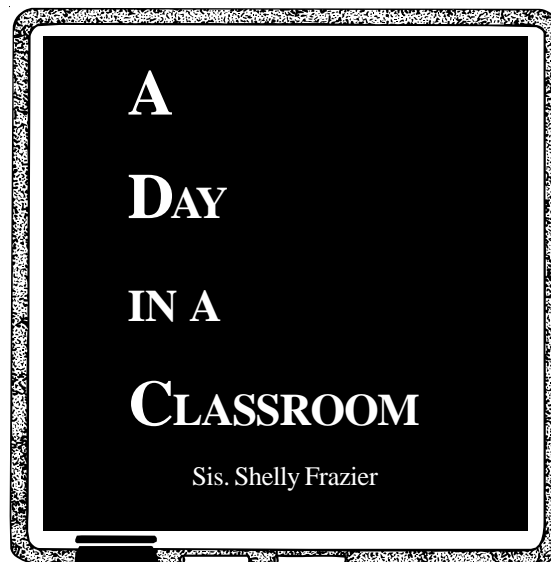
Dear children,

It truly is a blessing to be saved! I am very thankful for the privilege that we have to be in the church of God. As the end of our school year drew to a close last year, I thought of all the blessings the Lord has given to us. It is a wonderful privilege to be in a church of God school where we have saved teachers and saved classmates. We have

saved and sanctified young people and children in this school. We are not in a public school where we learn bad words and see bad things. Children, we are in a school that has teachers that love you!

Be encouraged, children, God is on our side. He will help us to be the students that we need to be. This year some of us are back in school again. Let's try to do even better than we did last year. Let's gain more spiritual ground than ever.

Sis. Rachel Moser (Age 17)
Ohio, USA



to a "dartboard" and taped the papers up one-by-one, and had the students who wrote the names down to throw darts at them.

When finished they returned to their seats. The teacher had noticed, with sorrow, the thrill that some had had at the dart throwing. As the teacher took down the pictures, a picture of Jesus was uncovered that had been on the board. A hush fell over the class as they realized what they had been set up for.

The teacher read Jesus' words in Matt. 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least

The teacher looked thoughtfully at the students. Some were making comments about each other that were not respectful. Others were trying to bully those who they felt were inferior to them, or play in a rough and inappropriate manner. "Lord, how can I help these students see how You would have them treat each other?" The teacher prayed earnestly, beseeching the Lord how to give the students a good lesson.

During the following school day the teacher announced to the class that they were going to have a rather different activity. The students were to write down the name of a person that annoyed them or that they didn't care to meet again, perhaps even if they would get saved. A few of the students soon had an answer. The teacher took the class over

of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Gal. 6:10 was also read, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them of the household of faith."

The teacher then challenged the class to find ways and things to say that could help each other make it to heaven. God had put them together to do this, and, because in reality, all we do *is* being done to the Lord. Which one of them were going to be the one the Lord could depend on to work for Him in the furtherance of the Gospel?

Oh, children, fighting, name-calling, being mean, having bad attitudes to each other, "let it not be once named among you." Live just as Jesus would!



Bible Facts

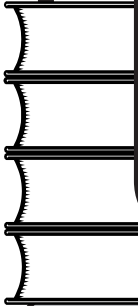
You know that the Bible is the Word of God, which has been preserved through all ages. Through its wonderful pages we learn the way of salvation and forgiveness and freedom from sin. Praise the Lord! Let us talk a little about the Bible today and see if we can learn some interesting things about it. You might want to open your Bible to the Table of Contents to follow along.

Did you know that the Bible is not just one book, but is made up of many books together? There are 66 books which comprise the Bible. Now, these books were written by holy men of God, who were moved by the Holy Ghost to write the things just as we read them today. And yet, even though there are many books, written by many different people over many centuries of time, these all agree together and teach us the wonder-

ful truths of God. You would think that with so many different people writing, they would disagree on some things, but it is not so. Praise the Lord.

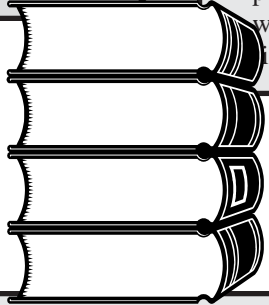
Did you know the Bible is divided into two parts, or sections? There is the *Old Testament*, which is made up of those books written before the coming of the Lord Jesus. This is the first part of the Bible, and it contains 39 books. Then there is the *New Testament*, comprised of those books written after the coming of Christ. There are 27 books in this second section.

The Old Testament begins with Genesis and ends with Malachi. The books in this part of the Bible are grouped together, not in the order in which they were written, but according to the type of book. The New Testament contains the books from Matthew through the Revelation. And we notice that, just as in the Old Testament, the books in this section of the Bible are also placed together in groups. Let's look at them together.



History. The books in this group are all the books from Genesis through Esther. Can you count how many books this includes? The first five of these are often called the Five Books of Moses. Can you name them? Two of these books are named after godly women. Search to see if you can find them in your Bible.

Major Prophets. The books of Isaiah through Daniel make up this group. Now, these are not called "Major Prophets" because they were more important than any of the other prophets, but because their books were larger than the others. There is one book in this group which could be considered poetry. Can you find it? It is a sad, lamenting song. Do you know who wrote that book?

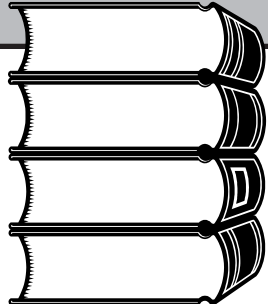


Gospels. The word gospel means "good news." This includes the books of Matthew through John, four in all. Of course, these are the books which tell of the life of the blessed Lord Jesus. We learn of His birth, His miracles, His love for souls, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead. We also learn how He ascended to heaven and waits there until He comes back in the clouds to punish the wicked and reward the righteous. Hallelujah!

Epistles. An *epistle* is a letter. The Epistles in the New Testament are letters written by apostles and disciples to people and congregations of saints. All the New Testament books from Romans through Jude are letters. Do you know who wrote most of them? You can find out by reading the first few verses of each one. Do you know which of the Epistles was written to a man about a runaway slave?

Minor Prophets. The Minor Prophets are Hosea through Malachi. These books were not as large as the ones called "Major Prophets", so we give them the name "Minor Prophets". You will notice that many of these books have only one chapter. But their messages were just as important. Can you locate the book in this group which tells of a man being swallowed by a great fish?

Poetry. This group is comprised of Job through Song of Solomon. The biggest book in Bible is in this group. Can you guess which one it is? I will give you a hint: It also has the longest chapter with the most number of verses.



Prophecy. A prophecy is a foretelling of future events. The Revelation is just such a book. It tells us of the history of the church of God from the time of the apostles until the present day. And what a glorious prophecy it is! The Revelation is the last book of the New Testament and the entire Bible. Can you find the verse in this book which says, "Come out of her my people?" This is the message of the church of God.