

## **7 Reasons that People Give to Not Obey the Gospel Pleasant Plains 5-24-2015AM NICK ANGEL**

- In **Acts 22**, Paul shares the story of his conversion with a crowd of people. He shares his former life and how he used to persecute church. He shares the experience of seeing Jesus and going blind. He tells them of Ananias and how he came and spoke the truth of Jesus to Paul. We then read a verse that we all know so well in **Acts 22:16**. *“Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name. ‘But Paul was reluctant and began to give reasons as to why he shouldn't obey the Gospel at this time.....’”* That’s what your Bible says right? Of course it doesn't say that! Paul simply obeyed in faith and was baptized into Christ.
- We all wish that things always worked out the way they did with Paul. We wish that those we shared the Gospel with would believe and obey without any sort of reservations or qualms about it, but that just simply isn't the case, more often that not. Many times there are reasons given for why they can't or won't obey the Gospel. The reasons vary from one extreme to the other. Some reasons are valid and logical, but others are nothing short of just excuses. This morning, we are going to look at 7 reasons people give for not obeying the Gospel and reason our way through them to see if they are valid reasons and maybe what we can say in response to someone who might be struggling with the decision of whether or not to commit their life to Christ.

### **I. “There are some things that I need to do first.”**

- A. Jesus was once given these types of reasons for not following Him. (**Luke 9:57-62**)
  1. One man needed to go bury his father. (**v.59**)
  2. Another man needed to go say good-bye to his family. (**v.60**)
- B. Sometimes, this type of reason, or really excuse, is nothing more than that, an excuse.
  1. Some people will use just about anything they can think of to push away obedience to the Gospel.
  2. Some people just don't have the courage to leave things behind for Jesus, so they make up an excuse.
  3. Yet for others, this reason is just a cover up for the fact that they don't want to commit to Jesus...

### **II. “I’m just not ready to commit to Jesus. “**

- A. Some count the cost and they're just not ready to make a commitment to Jesus. (**Luke 14:26-33**)
  1. Following Jesus is a big commitment, and it means learning to live for Jesus.
  2. Deciding to follow Jesus means a dying of self to allow Jesus to rule in our lives.
- B. If a person isn't willing to die to self, then they are not fit to follow after Jesus. (**Luke 9:62**)
  1. The rich young man of **Matthew 19:16-22** wasn't willing to give up his stuff to commit to Jesus.
  2. That person who isn't willing to commit to Jesus isn't ready to obey the Gospel and give their life to Him.

### **III. “I just don’t want to change my life.”**

- A. Some people recognize that following Jesus means that they will have to make some major changes.
  1. They will have to take the focus off of their own desires and put Jesus first. (**Gal. 3:20**)
  2. They will have to start living according to the standard of Jesus. (**I Cor. 6:9-11**)
- B. Some people love life the way it is and they don't want to give up the things that make them happy.
  1. They love their life of partying, carousing, and foolishness.
  2. They see their lives as lacking nothing so they don't feel the need to give all of that “fun” stuff up. That person who isn't willing to give up everything for Jesus isn't ready to follow after Him.

### **IV. “I’ve done too many bad things.”**

- A. For some people this is a real concern in their minds.
  1. They see themselves as having done just too much for God to forgive them.
  2. They feel as if they have burned any bridges back to redemption before God and their guilt is causing them to doubt any hope of forgiveness.
- B. The reality is that no past is too much for God to forgive.
  1. The sinner is the person that Jesus gave His life to save. (**Luke 5:31,32**)
  2. Paul recognized the blood of Jesus could wash away all sins, even his as he recognized himself as the worst of sinners before God. (**I Tim. 1:12-15**)

## V. "I have too many problems in my life."

- A. The denominational world has really made this a popular thought in regards to baptism specifically.
  - 1. Many have been lead to think that baptism is this crown jewel of your faith and that it is done once you have matured to a point of having all of your problems figured out.
  - 2. Of course, we will continually face challenges, temptations, and struggles in this life so people think that they can't be baptized
- B. Obeying the Gospel through faithful baptism for the forgiveness of your sins isn't the end of the race of faith, but it is the beginning of our journey to faith.
  - 1. It is at the point of faithful baptism that we die to self and begin our life in Christ. **(Rom. 6:4)**
  - 2. There will still be difficulties, but we can face them all knowing that the Lord will give us the strength to overcome anything that Satan throws at us. **(I Cor. 10:13)**

## VI. "I don't feel like I need to be baptized."

- A. Another problem the denomination world has created. A person feels as if they must have this special feeling before they know that they are to do something in regards to their faith. Or they might have been taught all of their lives that baptism isn't worth that much.
  - 1. Someone might say, "I'm... I'm just not feeling this whole baptism thing."
  - 2. Or you might even get, "Well my preacher said that baptism is something you can do, if you want to, after you've already been saved, but it isn't something that you have to do."
- B. These teachings are so common throughout the religious world, but they are not supported by the Bible. The Bible says...
  - 1. *"repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."* **(Acts 2:38)**
  - 2. *"we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."* **(Rom. 6:4)**
  - 3. *"for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"* **(I Cor. 12:13)**
  - 4. *"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."* **(Gal. 3:27)**
  - 5. *"Baptism now saves you"* **(I Peter 3:21)**

## VII. "I'll have time for that later."

- A. People might see the need to obey the Gospel, but they delay for various reasons.
  - 1. They might realize the cost and not be willing to give up their life right now.
  - 2. They're just too busy for God and a commitment to Him at the moment, but they want to get back around to this whole serving Him thing later on in life.
- B. The major fallacy we all see is the fact that we don't hold the keys of time. We do not control how long someone has to live or when the Lord will decide to return.
  - 1. Our life is like a vapor and it can be gone in an instant. We must not act as if it is a guarantee. **(James 4:13-15)**
  - 2. Jesus said that neither the angels or even Himself knew when that last day would be. **(Matt. 24:36)**
  - 3. The Apostle Peter warned the brethren to always be ready because that day will come like a thief, when it is least expected. **(II Pet. 3:10)**
  - 4. It would be so sad for anyone to think they have time and yet end up in the same place as the rich fool of Jesus's parable in **Luke 12:16-20**.

This list certainly isn't an exhaustive one and I'm sure I could do another life of 7 next week, but I hope that we all will consider these reasons and be ready to give a solid response to those we might be speaking to about their obedience to the Gospel. May God help us to be the type of people who will put our faith and trust in Him and not allow invalid reasons or excuses keep us from living for Him in all that we do. The Lord is looking for a people of faith, not a people of excuses. May He find us that that group that if faithful to Him on that last day.