

Why People Don't Respond To The Invitation

The Lord Invites All Men To Share In The Blessings Of Christ.

- ▶ He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).
- ▶ The book of Revelation closes with the same basic thought, "And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).

Some People Think God Will Not Forgive Them

- ▶ Jews on the day of Pentecost had crucified Jesus only 50 days earlier. (Acts 2:36-38,41)
- ▶ Prior to his conversion, Paul persecuted the church. Acts 8:1-3
 - "I am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Corinthians 15:9).
 - "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15)

Some People Think God Will Not Forgive Them

- ▶ Members of the church at Corinth had been guilty of the vilest of sins. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- ▶ John the Baptist described Jesus as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).
- ▶ Romans 5:6 says, "... Christ died for the ungodly."

Some People Think God Will Not Forgive Them

- ▶ The Lord said, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13).
- ▶ The Lord wants all men to be saved! Peter said, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).
- ▶ John said, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

The only sin the Lord will not forgive is the one you refuse to repent of!

Some People Fail To Respond Because Of Pride

- ▶ "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to Jehovah ... There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness" (Proverbs 16:5; 30:12).
- ▶ "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:3-4).

Some People Fail To Respond Because Of Procrastination.

- ▶ *Acts 24:25 "And as he reasoned of righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was terrified, and answered, Go thy way for this time; and when I have a convenient season, I will call thee unto me."*
- ▶ *2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 "For this cause God sendeth them working of error (strong delusion KJV), that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

7

Conclusion:

Uncertainty of tomorrow.

- ▶ James asked the question, "What is your life?" He answered, "It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).
- ▶ Obey God today, while you have the opportunity!
"Now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

8