

Return To Worship

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There are millions of persons who plan to someday return to church, make a new commitment to Jesus Christ, and allow God to work a miracle in their lives. They plan to bring Christian commitment and understanding into their marriages. They want to raise their children in a loving, stable, Christian home.

The problem is that many of these persons fail to see the urgency of the commitment. They forget that children soon grow up, that marriages can quickly fall apart, and that reputations can easily be ruined by dishonest and immoral decisions. Their busy schedules and their unwillingness to give up selfish, destructive lifestyles prevent them from enjoying the best God has planned for them.

I have never met an elderly person who made a decision to serve Christ at an early age and regretted it. On the other hand, I have known many persons who regretted that they had not chosen to follow Christ earlier in life.

There is an old story that three young demons met with their master, the Devil, just before leaving hell to journey to the earth for the first time. Satan explained that even though humans are greedy, selfish and do terrible things to one another, God loves them so much that He sent His only Son to die for them. The Devil went on to explain that God has prepared a wonderful place called "heaven" where humans can live forever in perfect love and harmony.

"All that they need to do," Satan said, "is ask God to forgive them and to accept Jesus as the Master of their lives. With such a great offer as that, how do you plan to convince humans to keep doing evil things so that when they die they will come here to hell with us instead?"

The first little demon blurt-ed out, "I will tell them that there is no God."

"No," the Devil said. "That will never work. They can see the creation of God all around them. Even the most primitive humans believe in some type of a God."

The second little demon said, "I will tell them there is no heaven and no hell."

"They won't believe that either," said Satan. "Humans were created by God to believe in life after death. They have always believed that there must be more to existence than a few years on earth."

The third demon said, "I will tell them there is no hurry."

Satan smiled a devilish grin. "That's it! Tell them there is no hurry. Tell them that it is good to serve the Lord, but that they can start at another time. Go! You will deceive many."

The best New Year's Resolution that many people could make is to stop procrastinating and to return to worshipping God. The longer Satan deceives people into believing that there is no urgency to serve God and return to church, the more time he has to mess up their lives. The way to defeat Satan is to put our trust in Jesus and to claim the wonderful life that God has planned for each one of us.