

# Soul Winning: The Christian's Business

by

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## Chapter Eight

### Cold and Calculating

Time after time Marilyn invited her friend to a special service at the church or talked to her about the Lord JESUS. Laurie listened with a polite smile and when Marilyn would try to persuade Laurie to decide for CHRIST Laurie would reply, "Not today."

"Not today" are the saddest words that any human being can say to GOD. The person who says them is really saying, "No," and making it harder to someday say "Yes" to GOD.

There is, of course, the chance that someday he may say "Yes" to GOD. On the other hand he may not have a tomorrow in which to turn to GOD.

We walk in the midst of death. No one can boast of tomorrow. We in America seem to celebrate our holiday weekends by traffic jags, killing scores. Or a man may drive to work and when he parks, topple over with heart trouble. A child may catch cold, lapse into pneumonia and die. Anyone to whom you speak has among his own friends those who died unexpectedly. As the Bible warns, **"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy"** (Proverbs 29:1).

In a loving and concerned manner you need to warn your friends that today is the day of salvation. Today is the only day of which anyone has assurance of living. As the inspired writer said, **"Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, . . . lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief"** (Hebrews 3:7, 8, 12).

There are a number of different excuses that these procrastinators use.

Here are some of them:

*"I will when my husband does."* As dear as is a husband, or a wife, the fact remains that each person will stand at the judgment seat alone. In hell, a mate will be no comfort. The Scripture

says, "**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad**" (II Corinthians 5:10).

Furthermore, the delight is, that often after a husband or wife has made his step toward GOD, mate and other members of the family often follow. The Apostle Paul told the Philippian jailer, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house**" (Acts 16:31).

"*I want to have a good time first.*" This answer, born of the foolishness of youth, shows a lack of understanding of the true Christian life. The Christian is the one who really has the "good time" in life. He suffers no "hangovers," no "morning after regrets." The believer has the joy given by the Lord, for He promised, "**These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full**" (John 15:11).

"*I couldn't be a Christian in my line of business.*" If the person really can not be a Christian in his line of business, such as being a B'girl or a dishonest used car dealer, then he should get out of the business. He should not be in it anyway!

If he will change his business, he may have problems during the time of the changeover, but the Lord promises, "**Them that honor me, I will honor**" (1 Samuel 2:30). Remind him that there are Christians in many walks of life. Use illustrations of such men as R. E. LeTourneau, builder of land clearing machinery used around the world, Krist Gudnason, founder and president of Alice of California, or Harry R. Smith, vice-president of the Bank of America, San Francisco.

If your friend still postpones making a decision, remind him in a kindly way that he is building up a reflex pattern.

It is one of the laws of GOD that the longer we say "No," the easier it is to say "No."

You might remind him of the Biblical account of the Pharaoh of Egypt who refused to let the Hebrews leave his country until at last, regardless of the plagues that swept over his land, he could not say "Yes."

Too, the Bible makes the delightful promise, "**They that seek me early shall find me**" (Proverbs 8:17).

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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