

EXCUSE NO. 6

“THERE ARE TOO MANY CHRISTIAN HYPOCRITES”

Yes, there are hypocrites in the Church. There are false prophets who manipulate Christianity; there are pew-sitters who show up to be seen; there are workers trying to earn their salvation; and there are true believers who are aware of their shortcomings, yet faithfully persevere.

Jesus said: “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” ~ Matthew 16:27 NKJV

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” ~ Romans 14:12 NKJV

Jesus Christ has been given the authority to judge all the earth. When Christ returns, everyone’s life will be reviewed and evaluated. This will not be confined to nonbelievers; Christians too will face a judgment. Our eternal destiny is secure, but Jesus will look at how we handled gifts, opportunities and responsibilities in order to determine our heavenly rewards. At the judgment, He will deliver the righteous and condemn the wicked.

EXCUSE NO. 7

“IT WILL COST ME TOO MUCH”

“...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.” I Peter 2:24 NKJV

Exactly what will it cost you?

“How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?” ~ Psalms 116:12 NIV

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” ~ Mark 8:36-37 NKJV

Jesus said that the world of pleasure centered on possessions, position, or power is ultimately worthless. Whatever you have on earth is only temporary; it cannot be exchanged for your soul. If you work hard at getting what you want, you might eventually have a pleasurable life, but in the end you will find it hollow and empty. You have a choice. You can reject Jesus now and be rejected by Him at His Second Coming, or we can accept Him now and be accepted by Him then. Rejecting Him may help you escape shame for the time being, but it will guarantee an eternity of shame later.

EXCUSE NO. 8

“I’LL LOSE MY FRIENDS”

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.” ~ Exodus 23:2a NIV

“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” ~ Proverbs 13:20 NKJV

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” ~ I Corinthians 15:33 NIV

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?” ~ II Corinthians 6:14 NIV

EXCUSE NO. 9

“I WILL BE PERSECUTED”

YOU WILL BE BLESSED!

Jesus said: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.” ~ Matthew 5:11 NKJV

YOUR SOUL WILL BE LIFTED UP!

Jesus said: “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” ~ Matthew 5:12 NKJV

GOD’S PEOPLE EXPECT PERSECUTION!

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” ~ II Timothy 3:12-13 NKJV

Jesus said: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” ~ John 16:33 NKJV

YOU, TOO, CAN OVERCOME!

In spite of the inevitable struggles we face, we are not alone. Jesus doesn’t abandon us in our struggles. If we believe the ultimate victory has already been won, we can claim the peace of Christ in difficult times.

God created you, knows you, and loves you. It only makes sense to heed His instructions and do what He says. The Bible is His unfailing word to you. It is like an owner’s manual for a car. If you obey God’s instructions, you will “run right” and find His supernatural power for life.



May God’s Holy Spirit help you to stop making excuses!

Come to His Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ!

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13 NKJV



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The Bible contains God’s responses to any excuse you may make for not submitting to the Gospel (Good News) message of Jesus Christ. It is “natural” for you to trust in your own ignorance of The Bible, while believing in your own goodness and innocence — most of us have something that causes us to cringe with shame. The Bible points to a day when EVERY tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, and you will see how you failed to master your own fate. There will be no greater shame than standing naked before God, with no valid excuse for rejecting His love, acceptance and forgiveness that is yours for eternity by faith in His Son.

What are your excuses?

EXCUSE NO. 1
“Not Today”

We are all controlled by someone or something. What controls you? Who do you serve? If you just drift along with whatever is pleasant and easy, you will someday discover you've been worshipping a puny god — yourself.

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” ~ Joshua 24:15 NKJV

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.” ~ Isaiah 55:6 NKJ

God doesn't move away from us. We construct the barriers to keep Him out. Seek God before He judges the earth, when it will be too late. Eternal life begins today! Are you ready?

Jesus said: “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” ~ Matthew 24:44 NKJV

God is offering salvation to everyone. Many put off the decision for Christ, thinking there will be a better time later. There is no time like the present to receive God's forgiveness. Don't let anything or anyone hold you back!

EXCUSE NO. 2
“IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME”

There *will be* a time that is “too late,” however:

Jesus said: “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” ~ John 6:37 NKJV

“For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” ~ Romans 10:13 NKJV

EXCUSE NO. 3
“I TRIED ONCE AND FAILED”

GOD IS ABLE!

When our will is weak, when our reason is

confused, when our conscience is burdened with a load of guilt, we must remember that God cares for us continually, His mercies never fail.

When family and friends desert us, when people don't understand us, when we are tired of being good, God's mercies never fail.

When we can't see the way or can't seem to hear God's voice, when we lack courage to go on, God's mercies never fail. When our shortcomings overwhelm us and awareness of our sins overcomes us, God's mercies never fail.

“...and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.” ~ Romans 4:21 NKJV

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” ~ Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

GOD IS ABLE TO SAVE COMPLETELY!

Christ's continuous presence in heaven with the Father assures us that our sins have been paid for and forgiven. This assurance frees us from guilt and fear of failure when we choose to believe.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy ... ” ~ Jude 24 NKJV

GOD IS ABLE TO FORGIVE!

When we fail, it is because we have moved away from God. He is too much the gentleman to interfere with our choices. When we suffer the consequences, we blame Him rather than take responsibility for our own attitudes and actions. When we do His will, He rewards us with inner peace and joy.

EXCUSE NO. 4
“THERE ARE TOO MANY MYSTERIES”

We must not use the limitation of our knowledge as an excuse to reject God's claim on our life. There are

things God has chosen not to reveal to us, possibly because:

- (1) Our finite minds cannot fully understand the infinite aspects of God's nature and the universe;
- (2) Some things are unnecessary for us to know until we are more mature; and
- (3) God is infinite and all-knowing, and we do not have the capacity to know everything He knows.

Although God has not told us everything there is to know about obeying Him, He has told us enough. Disobedience comes from an act of the will, not a lack of knowledge. Through God's Word we know enough about Him to be saved by faith.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” ~ Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.’” ~ John 13:7 NKJV

“And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.’” ~ Acts 1:7 NKJV

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” ~ I Corinthians 13:12 NKJV

One day we will be complete when we see God face to face. This truth should strengthen our faith. We don't have all the answers now, but then we will. Someday we will see Christ in person and be able to see fully with God's perspective.

EXCUSE NO. 5
“I DON'T NEED A SAVIOR”

We often try to protect ourselves from our fears by putting our trust in something we do or possess; our good works, our skill or intelligence, our money or possessions. But only God can save us from the one thing we really need to fear: eternal condemnation—living forever separated from God.

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” ~ John 3:18 NKJV

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” ~ John 3:36 NKJV

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...” ~ Romans 3:23 NKJV

Some sins seem bigger than others. Murder seems worse than hatred. Adultery seems worse than lust. You need the Savior if you have ever lied, hurt someone's feelings by your words or actions, been bitter toward anyone, become angry with anyone who disagrees with you. In thought, word, and deed — you, like everyone else in the world, stand guilty before God.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ Romans 6:23 NKJV

You are free to choose between two masters, but you are not free to adjust the consequences of your choice. Each of the two masters pays his servants with his own kind of currency. The currency of sin is death—that is all you can expect or hope for in life without God. Christ's currency is eternal life—new life with God that begins on earth and continues forever with God.

“...How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him...” ~ Hebrews 2:3 NKJV

We have not seen Jesus personally, but we base our belief in Jesus on the eyewitness accounts recorded in the Bible.

Jesus said: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ~ John 20:29b NKJV