

THE SENSE OF URGENCY

1. Text: II Timothy 4:6-9
2. Paul the old man needs his associate by his side; he calls for diligence in Timothy's coming. Verse 21 urges he come before winter. Earlier in Titus 3:12. Paul asked Titus to be diligent in coming to him.
3. The concept of diligence is extremely important in our view of things. The Greek word means: to hasten, hurry, be eager, earnest, exert oneself, to be diligent. It is two-pronged: (1) Hurry or hasten and (2) earnestness, zeal. So zealous hastening. Idea of intensity, urgency, compelling immediate action or attention, pressing importance.
4. Tracking it through the New Testament, one finds four basic areas where we need a sense of urgency mentioned. We need it:

I. **To Be Sure Of Our Salvation**

1. II Peter 1:10 Give diligence to make your calling and election sure.
2. II Peter 3:14 Make every effort to be found in him.
3. Hebrews 4:11 Let us be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall.
4. Hebrews 6:11 Show the same diligence until the end.
5. Are you outside Christ now? Funeral tomorrow?
6. This is not a game!
7. Old Testament prophets: repent.
8. Dwight L. Moody in Chicago in 1871.
9. Our responsibility to lost.

II. **To Grow**

1. II Peter 1:5 Give diligence to add these virtues.
2. II Timothy 2:15 Give diligence (study) to show self approved of God.
3. II Corinthians 8:7 Abound in your diligence.
4. "It's time to grow up."
5. Hurry to character development? Yes. What if a weakness a year ago had been challenged? Where would we be today?
6. "I'm not ready for that." Well, get ready!

III. **To Serve**

1. Galatians 2:10 I was eager to remember the poor.
2. II Corinthians 8:16-18 Titus had an earnest desire, care for readers.
3. II Timothy 1:16-18 Onesiphorus was diligent in his service to Paul.
4. Peter's mother-in-law was healed and immediately started serving (Mark 1:30-31)
5. Philip: "Go" and he ran (Acts 8:29-30)
6. Origin of "Build a fire under him." Walter Scott's haste.
7. Attitude: What can I do now to help?

IV. **To Keep The Peace**

1. To get along, to have unity and peace among brethren.
2. Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring (being diligent) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
3. Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers.
4. Eager to divide? No. Eager to join hands.
5. What are you doing to promote such peace?

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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