

ONE, TWO, THREE, GO

Most have at some time in life used the above words in order to synchronize two or more people to do something at the same time. We use it here for the beginning of a new year of service to God. Knowing when to start something is important. And, knowing when to start serving God to one's fullest is all important. The starting place for us in this endeavor is "today", "right now"! Don't put it off for another minute. The apostle Paul quoted from Isaiah, saying. "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2).

Any who have ever tried to keep up an exercise program of any kind, know how easy it is to get out of the routine. Having experience it first hand that it is easier to get back into the routine "tomorrow" than it is "today". However, once back into the routine, one is glad that they are.

In the spiritual world, there is somewhat a parallel to physical exercise. In fact, the Hebrew writer wrote, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). Like physical exercise, we only become stronger and healthier when we get the proper exercise. Also, as in physical exercise, when we for some reason have had to back off our exercising of our senses, we tend to let any and every little hindrance become a major obstacle over which we can't seem to cross until "tomorrow". A couple of rainy days and our walk is hard to return to. A couple of weeks of missing worship due to what could be considered a legitimate reason, and suddenly it's hard to get there. Many other examples could be cited, but I'm sure you get the point.

The fact is, no matter whether one is an alien sinner who has never obeyed the first principles of the gospel of Christ and been added to the body of Christ, if one is a child of God who has altogether gone back into the world or one is simple a child of God who has begun to get out of shape because of little hindrances, procrastination will be the death of you. There are three grave dangers in not starting now, when it comes to making your life right in the sight of God. (1) Neither you, I or any man on the face of the earth knows when the Lord will return (Mark 13:32). (2) We do not know when our life on this earth will come to an end (Luke 12:20; Jam. 4:14). (3) Hard heartedness can set in (Heb. 3:13). One, Two, Three--Go!

Robert

THEN WHAT?

A young man and an old man talked one day. Said the boy, "I think I'll go away from Father's old farm...don't know just when." The old man listened and asked, "What then?"

"I guess I'll have some fun in town the first few years...then settle down and get a job and earn a lot." The old man smiled and asked, "Then what?"

"Why then I'll meet the girl of my dreams, whose folks have money; and then it seems I'll buy a fine home with everything new." The old man queried, "Then what will you do?"

"I guess I'll invest in bonds and stocks; that's where they say opportunity knocks. Maybe by that time I'll be governor." And the old man asked, "And then, what more?"

"I guess I'll retire if I please, and travel and live a life of ease." The old man thought as he scratched his head; "Then what will you do, my son?" he said.

For a moment the lad made no reply. Then he answered slowly, "I guess I'll die." A deep silence followed as both of them thought. Then the old man asked softly, "My boy, then what?"

Would it not serve us all well to ever keep in mind that the time will come when we depart this earthly tabernacle and enter into eternity? No matter how great we become in man's eyes, no matter how successful we are in this earthly realm, every bit of that will come to an abrupt end. We will every one stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be judged by what we have done in this life (II Cor. 5:10). Once that dividing of the sheep from the goats has occurred (Matt. 25:31-33) there will be no second chance. The division is for eternity. With the seriousness of such an event, the eternal salvation or damnation of our very souls on the line, should we not be much more interested in preparing for that day than in the pursuit of earthly pleasure and the accumulation of earthly riches? "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36).