**While it is Day!**

I want to share some thoughts that have been on my mind recently. As some of you know, my Mom fell away from the Lord. At one time she was a great encourager when I started preaching 36 years ago. She gave me two monographed Bibles that I still have. But then little by little she drifted farther and farther from the Lord until a few years ago she refused to even see me and called me some pretty bad things. Then she had a stroke and is now unable to think for herself. She is in a physical and mental state where she has to be reminded how to swallow when she eats. I love my Mom and wish things were different.

* We may have friends or family who once were faithful disciples of Jesus but have fallen away.
* We have friends or family who are good morally but they have not obeyed the gospel.
* We know good moral folks who are in denominations or other religious groups practicing error.

It may be tempting to think, maybe God will accept them if they die in their state? Maybe God will look the other way for them? Maybe God will overlook that they have not humbled themselves in obedience to Him?

God has given us what His expectations are for His disciples in His Word. We want these loved ones to be in a saved condition, even though when we look at the scriptures, that is not what we see. We may be tempted to try to widen the narrow road so our friends and loved ones might have hope (**Matthew 7:13-14**). If we give in to these thoughts we may lose the urgency we are to have in teaching as we should. Let us be diligent to use our time while it is day and when there is hope, to seek and save the lost. Notice some gospel truths related to this.

**Mark 10:17-22** - Rich young ruler was a good moral religious person, but lacked only one thing.

**Matthew 15:1-9** – Teaching as doctrine the commandments of men – Those in denominations or churches teaching error are teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.

**Acts 10:1-6, 33, 11:14** – Cornelius was very righteous, yet was to be taught things he must do! No matter how good a person is, God requires them to be obedient to His Will.

**Acts 17:1-4, 16, 30** – Apostle Paul teaching - Faithful Jews in the synagogues, folks in the market place – it doesn’t matter who we are, God has the same requirements for all of us.

**Galatians 1:6-9** – By man perverting the gospel many can be turned away from the truth.

**Hebrews 2:1, 2 Peter 3:17-18** – Warnings about falling away, drifting away. Why the warning? Because we could lose our soul!

**Revelations 2:5, 14-16, 3:3-6, 19** – Even in the Lord’s church, Jesus has expectations we are to meet. Just because we attend services in Oak Ridge, does not mean we are acceptable to the Lord. We must be faithful and obedient.

We want everyone to be saved. It is devastating and a tragedy when one will not humble themselves to the gospel or when they die in an unsaved condition. The reality is the gospels still teaches that the Lord’s Way is still narrow (**Luke 13:24**).

The blessing and the positive message we have today is we, disciples of Jesus Christ, all have many that we can love and encourage to come to Jesus! Many of our friends and loved ones need to humble themselves to the Lord, even though they may be good moral folks, good religious folks, or were once obedient disciples of Jesus. They all need to humble themselves and obey the Lord so they can be saved eternally. We need to be busy sharing the hope of the gospel to save people while it is day, while there is time, and while there is hope (**John 9:4**)!

Maybe today is the day you come to Jesus or return to Jesus?