

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Regret

"I don't regret the things I've done, I regret the things I didn't do when I had the chance." – Abhishek

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." – Nathan Hale

"A moment of patience in a moment of anger saves you a hundred moments of regret." – unknown

"A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams." – John Barrymore

"Have you ever wondered which hurts the most: saying something and wishing you had not, or saying nothing, and wishing you had? – unknown

All of us know the pain of regret. It may be something we said, did, or failed to say or do. It is part of the learning experience, and not one that we enjoy.

Sometimes it causes us hurt in relationships, especially because of something rashly said. How often have we proverbially opened our mouths and inserted our feet? We desperately wish we could take back whatever it was we said.

Were you aware that even God has expressed regret? "Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 'I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.' And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night" (1 Sam. 15:10-11).

Perhaps the greatest regret that comes to mind is that of individuals who lived a life time, and during that life failed to honor the God of Heaven. Despite the Lord's gracious invitation to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30), they refuse His loving grace and mercy. Even to this day, it is a great puzzle when people shun God even after being shown in His Holy Word a choice between Heaven and Hell.

And then there is the regret that is yet to come. People will have an eternity to regret not obeying the Gospel of Christ. Out of stubbornness and pride, they will forever be dogged by what they could have and should have done. Such a thought truly hurts.

Also, one cannot help thinking of those who once were staunch Christians, who purposely and willfully turned their backs on God (Heb. 6:4-6). Can you imagine what it would be like to know that you were close to the Lord but made the choice to turn from Him? Such reminds one of Judas Iscariot, who for three years was close to the Savior, but sold Him out for 30 pieces of silver.

Although there are many regrets, don't let this be your regret.