

THERE IS STILL TIME TO COME TO GOD.



This is for those of you old enough to be pretty sure your die has already been cast. Life has not turned out the way you thought it would (has it for any of us, really?). While you try not to think about it, certain regrets do creep in at times.

Facebook allows me to see the age groupings of people who “like” my posts. Since I try to write things of consequence, it doesn't surprise me that MOST of the likes come from people my age and older. They can see the end of the road in ways younger folks just cannot.

Let me get to my point. You and I have become, in large part, the kind of person we CHOSE to become. Rarely did we make those choices in a dramatic fashion – rather, they were little inner “agreements” as we went along, giving assent to the kind of person we were becoming.

By and large, YOU are responsible for the way you have turned out. I am not trying to be mean, but until you take ownership for yourself, and accept the fact that God holds YOU accountable, you are not ready to come to God.

That aside, you may feel hopeless to come to God. You have proven to yourself, many times, that resolutions for better behavior never lasted very long. Young people have not learned that yet. That is why for them the message “just try harder” is persuasive in a way it is NOT for people our age.

"I am just not the kind of person God would be interested in." Is that what you are thinking?

You look back on lost opportunities, misbehavior, and mistakes. Those one or two decisions, which at the time didn't seem important, that changed the rest of your life.

The past cannot be altered. You are very sure you cannot change yourself. You feel scared at the thought of facing God. The devil whispers into your mind, “It's too late for you.” So you try not to think about it.

HOLD ON. Jesus told a story comparing God to a rich man who hired workers for his vineyard. If you know the story, you remember that those hired AT THE END OF THE DAY received the same pay as those who hired-on in the early morning.

Why? Because the owner of the vineyard LIKED BEING GENEROUS.

I assure you, based on the testimony of Jesus himself, YOU ARE NOT TOO LATE TO COME TO GOD. God is quite happy to receive you, even after this long time. But you must come before it IS too late.

“Why would he accept me?” you might be thinking. BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU. The whole point of God coming in Jesus to save us is because of love.

“For God SO LOVED THE WORLD that he gave his only Son, that whosoever trusts in him shall NOT perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

You may be thinking, “I’ve tried to change before. It doesn’t work.” True. Which is why you must give up and surrender yourself to Jesus Christ JUST AS YOU ARE. God will do the changing if you are willing for him to do so.

It is painfully humbling to accept your helplessness, but it is YOUR first step of reality. You cannot change yourself. You cannot make up for your past. You cannot make yourself acceptable to God. If God is not merciful, you are sunk.

But God IS merciful and that is where you put your trust.

The Bible says, "If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared" (Psalm 130:3).

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that God not only FORGIVES but God also FORGETS.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

This is why the Bible teaches that the ONLY way (and the CERTAIN way) you can come to God is by GRACE – sheer mercy – which you receive when you entrust yourself to Jesus Christ.

Would you like to come to God? It is NOT too late.