

Intro: I would like to introduce to you this morning Mr. and Mrs. Iben Putinitoff but sadly, I am afraid that too many of us, both men and women, are already regular friends with them. They actually reside with many of us. Don't they???

We have all succumbed to that old enemy of procrastination, especially if it is something we do not look forward to doing.

Thought: Someone explains this plague by saying that a procrastinator suffers from hardening of the oughteries.

I. Definitions and related words

Webster defines procrastination as, to put off intentionally and habitually. It is related to words like tardy, suspend, linger, loiter, defer, put off, prolong, post phone, etc.

Thought: Ever felt like you had done any of these things in a situation? And if you have, the next question is, did that task or situation simply go away while you procrastinated in doing it?

II. Examples of the results of procrastination

A. In the physical

- Behind in bills and late charges are piling up
- The oil in the car not changed when it should have been
- Homework not done and it is due today

B. In the spiritual

1. The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32

Thought: He put off going home till broken and undone, he finally had to give in and give up V 17-19

2. The rich man Luke 16:19-31

Thought: He put off giving up the luxury and self-sufficiency of today for a needed salvation and hope for an eternity. He procrastinated till it was eternally too late. V 25,26

III. Reasons for procrastination

- Fear of failure
- Fear of success
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Under/or over estimating task time schedules or size
- Believing that our mood needs to be right before we start the task.

IV. The dangers of procrastination in the spiritual

1. Missing heaven and making hell Hebrews 2:1-4 V 3

II Corinthians 6:1-10 V 2

2. When we procrastinate, we miss growth and much ministry opportunity II Peter 3:14-18 V 18

Thought: It has been said that procrastination is the devil's chloroform and if he can get us to procrastinate, we will be rendered useless or dead in the work of the Lord because we haven't grown.

We could say it like this, **Thought:** The man who procrastinates struggles with ruin.

Question: Has procrastination ruined your work and testimony for the Lord?

V. Avoiding Procrastination

Some practical suggestions

- Break big, complicated tasks into smaller pieces

- Distinguish obligations from options
- Minimize distractions. Check e-mail and voicemail only twice per day instead of every 5 minutes. Resist the urge to keep taking breaks.
- Remind yourself of the consequences of procrastination

Joshua 24: 14,15

The key from those verses is to choose your direction today. Choose to grow, choose to serve, choose to do the things today that need to be done and esp. the things that God wants you to do..

It comes down to an actual choice because there are very few people are fast enough to keep up with their good intentions.

Rather than say, I intend to do it tomorrow, choose to do it today because tomorrow is often the busiest day of the year.

Thought: The devil doesn't care how much we do, as long as we don't do it today.

In closing: I am going to ask you to join a very special and exclusive club.

Question: How many are willing to join this club?

You say I'm not joining anything until I know what it is. I am asking you to join the **TNT club**.

You say I might, but not until I know what TNT means.

It means **Today not tomorrow**

Remember: Live, serve and grow as though every day were your last and some day you will be right

Final thoughts: If you are here and you are the type of person who keeps putting things off, I would suggest that one thing, out of all the things in life

that you might **not** want to put off is getting ready for the next step when death comes calling at your life's door.

As someone noted, it is sad to plan to die at 12:00 only to actually die at 11:45. To be ready don't put it off any longer. Read the following few lines and make your decision today. You will be eternally thankful you did.

Realize you are a sinner Rom. 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Rom. 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Rom. 6:23b and Jn. 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)