

Diligence and Neglect

The apostle Peter, in the early part of his second letter, gives emphasis to the importance of Christians being diligent in the development of spiritual qualities. How diligent did he want them to be? He urges, "...giving all diligence..." (2 Pet. 1:5). Later, he adds, "...be even more diligent..." (2 Pet. 1:12).

Since Peter wanted these saints to be diligent, he also knew the need for him to be certain he did not neglect his duty to call their attention to such important matters. He recognized he would have been negligent if he failed to remind them and if he did not do it "always" (1:12).

It is interesting that the words "diligent" and "negligent" are found in the same context. They are poles apart in meaning. One (diligent) signifies an earnestness, carefulness, a zeal to accomplish. The other (negligent) means to be careless, not to care.

Yet, this passage provides an interesting connection. Peter encouraged diligence on the part of his readers. He did not want to neglect his responsibility toward them. In order to fully reach the goal of spiritual development, Peter needed to be diligent in reminding them of the effort needed to produce virtue from faith, leading to knowledge, self-control, etc. Should he not be diligent in reminding them, they could easily neglect what would make their call and election sure (10). Both Peter and his readers needed to be diligent. Neither would benefit from neglect.

Several questions could be asked in regard to these two words. Which is easier, diligence or neglect? Not a difficult answer for sure. Which produces the right results? A no-brainer.

These questions may be more challenging: How diligent are we? Is there a carefulness about spiritual matters that expresses itself in persistent effort? How negligent are we? Do others see in us a careless attitude toward spiritual matters?

Let's be diligent not to be negligent.

- Allen Hahn, Graeber Road church of Christ, Rosenberg, TX (Bulletin Digest) -

Never Too Late



1860 - 1961

American folk artist Anna Mary Robertson Moses (better known as Grandma Moses) began painting at the age of 78. She completed more than one thousand oil paintings depicting farm life and the rural countryside she knew so well. What a great lesson! It is never too late to start a new venture, especially if it is serving the Lord.

- BulletinDigest.com -

Faith can never overdraw its account.

News & Notes

PANTRY: Bath soap & Laundry detergent.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Linda Parkes. Linda is having difficulty walking and will have back surgery in early August.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Those known to have Covid: John & Sharon Sprout, David & Becky McKittrick, Janet Malcomson, Mel Richmond, Rylan Richmond, and Maysun Reardon.

Others on the sick list: **Encompass Health Rehab, Sewickley, PA:** Mike West. **Calcutta Health Care:** Sam Burdine (Willard's brother). **The Orchards Rehab in East Liverpool:** Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister). **At Home:** Ed Wiersbicki, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

The Eiffel Tower Compared to Christianity

David R. Kenney

According to History.com, the 986-foot-tall Eiffel Tower was completed in 1889 and surpassed the Washington Monument as the world's tallest structure. Though now considered a symbol of romance, it was protested as "useless and monstrous" by several French artisans. Fast forward and now consider those comments. The Eiffel Tower endures, and those critics and criticisms are a distant memory.



Pursuing New Testament Christianity is similar. Some scoffed then and now at the restoration plea and process today. Still, worshipping according to the New Testament pattern endures because it is based on eternal truths and an everlasting foundation – the eternal Jesus Christ, His enduring Word and His everlasting Kingdom. God is the one who made all these eternal elements, and even though there may be some who scoff and ridicule our plea to follow the New Testament and its pattern for us, these truths remain. While others may scoff, they are being interrupted by those who seek to worship the Lord in spirit and truth each Lord's Day. New Testament worship withstands the test of time!

- Gospel Gazette Online

Merriam-Webster Dictionary Expands The Definition of 'Male', 'Female'

"Having a *gender identity* that is the opposite of male/female." Merriam-Webster's definition of *gender identity*: "a person's internal sense of being male, female, some combination of male and female, or neither male or female."

- Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary -