

## “DON’T QUIT TOO SOON”

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### Acts 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11

As we continue to reflect on the struggles that Jesus Christ had to endure during His final days of His earthly mission, each of us should meditate on our own personal challenges. This period of reflection, in the Christian tradition, is called the Lenten Season. It is a forty day period, excluding Sundays, prior to the resurrection of Jesus. Last Sunday I shared numerous verses for you to study so that your personal walk with God would grow. Some of you have chosen the Daniel fast which is found in Daniel 1:8-14. If you do not have a copy of the fast please contact the Church Office.

On last week I asked my married couples what would they give up, during lent, that would improve their marriages. The responses were all so thoughtful and if followed could be quite effective. As I thought about that question, I personally reflected on how many impatient people give up on or quit a project, a mission, or even on people too soon. We have all met or know someone who just quit too soon and never attained their desired goal.

Luke tells of a time when Paul simply lost his patience with John, called Mark, when he declined to take him on a journey. Realizing that there are always some justifiable reasons to quit, the passage and sermon will teach the lesson about why we should not Quit Too Soon!!

It is so easy to throw up our hands, throw in the towel and walk away, but suppose Jesus had quit on us. Where would we be? Paul and Barnabas, good friends and colleagues, parted ways over Paul’s attitude to quit on John Mark. We also learn that John Mark quit on a previous journey. It is recorded where Peter quit on Jesus before the rooster crowed.

Quitting too soon or before God is ready to say, “let it alone” seems to be a pattern in life which we all face. When the burdens of everyday living occur, at times we all want to quit. When problems and challenges appear to be overwhelming, we want to put our heads in the sand and just hide or quit. Quitting seems a viable alternative to facing issues head on which seem to have no solution at the time. Sometimes, we quit too soon. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Don’t quite. Stay in there and your labor will not be in vain.” Some of us quit too soon on God and miss our blessings. Our prayer is that after this morning’s sermon that you will pray and ask God’s guidance, before you quit too soon.

To assist you to meditate on what God is saying to you this Lenten week (March 4 – March 10) each morning read Psalm 4 and each evening read Luke 13:1-9. Yes, every morning and every evening read/study these two passages of scripture. Do not be surprised when you discover God revealing a different thought, just for you, every time you go to His Word.

If you personally feel that you are receiving nothing, that it is a waste of your time, or that you already read it once, let me encourage you to read it again and DON’T QUIT TOO SOON. There is something that God is trying to teach you for your spiritual growth.

Don’t Quit On Yourself...

Don’t Quit On God...

God Knows Your Every Care, Thought and Need.

*Pastor Gerald L. Durley*