THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING
James 4:17
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INTRODUCTION
1. The sin of doing nothing is the sin of Omission.
2. It is one of the most prevalent sins in the church today.

I. GOD HAS WARNED HIS PEOPLE ABOUT THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING:
1. James 4:17
2. James 2:14 - 20
3. James 1: 22 - 25
4. Matt. 7: 26 - 27

II. THERE ARE THREE CLASSES OF "DO NOTHING" CHRISTIANS:
1. The KNOW-NOTS, the WILL-NOTS, and the INTEND-TO'S:
2. THE KNOW-NOTS:
   (1) Of this number some have not been taught their duty.
   (2) This is a failure on the part of the teacher and leaders in the congregation --Matt. 28:19 - 20.
   (3) This kind of "KNOW-NOT" will do better when he learns better . . .
   (4) But, some "KNOW-NOTS" have heard the teaching over and over, and they are dull of hearing -- Matt. 13:15; Heb. 5:11.
      1. These "KNOW-NOTS" don't want to understand.
3. THE WILL-NOTS:
   (1) They know what God wants them to do, but stubbornly hold out against God's will.
   (2) Jesus said to the Jews: "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" -- John 5:40.
   (3) Many WILL-NOTS in the church today:
      2. Many WILL-NOT live right -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12.
      4. Many WILL-NOT give as they should -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; 2 Cor. 9:7.
      7. Many WILL-NOT visit the sick --Matt. 25: 36,43
4. The INTEND-TO'S:
   (1) They know what God wants them to do, and they know they should be doing it.
   (2) They INTEND to do better when they get things in shape -- Acts 24: 24 - 25.
   (3) "I intend to some day . . . ."
   (4) They INTEND TO:
      1. Study more.
      2. Live better.
      3. Attend the services better.
4. Visit more.
5. Give more.
6. Convert their neighbors.
7. Have better attitudes.

III. EXAMPLES OF GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SIN OF DO NOTHING:
   (1) Three years found no fruit; said to cut it down -- it was useless -- God wants us to be useful.
   (2) Give it one more chance, then cut it down.
   (3) A barren tree is no good and a barren Christian is no good to the Lord -- Rom. 7:4; John 15: 2, 8
4. The Fruitless Branch -- John 15:1 - 8, 2, 6

IV. WHY DO SOME FALL INTO THE DO-NOTHING ATTITUDE?
1. Some just do not care -- Preaching does not arouse them to duty.
2. Some are just Lazy.
3. Some are in a Rut.
4. Some are RESTING upon the Brethren:
   (1) They go a yard when they should go a mile.
   (2) They give five dollars when they should give much more.
   (3) They give a minute when they should give an hour.
5. Some are afraid -- Matt. 25: 24 - 30.
6. Some are troubled with indecision:
   (1) They have no aim.
   (2) They have no goal.

V. WHY IS IT SO SINFUL TO DO NOTHING???
1. It violates God's commands:
   (1) Matt. 7:21
   (3) I Cor. 15:58
   (4) Heb. 10:25
   (5) Phil. 2:12
2. It robs God of glory:
   (1) Matt. 5: 13, 16
3. It brings Shame upon His people -- Rev. 3: 14 - 19
5. It causes one to miss heaven -- Matt. 25:30.
6. The final tragedy of a DO-NOTHING life is clearly set out in the story of the Rich man and Lazarus, in the parable of the Foolish Virgins, and in the striking picture of the Final Judgment.
   (1) RICH MAN OF LUKE 16: 19 - 31
      1. He was rich --v. 19
2. He dressed well -- v. 19.
3. He fared sumptuously every day -- v. 19.
4. He did NOTHING for others; he lived for himself.
5. He lost his soul -- 16: 22 - 23.

(2) IN THE JUDGMENT JESUS WILL SAY TO THE DO-NOTHINGS: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" --Matt. 25:41.
1. He then lists their failures -- Matt. 25: 42 - 46.

(3) THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS --Matt. 25: 1 - 13

CONCLUSION
1. We should stop and think just how little we actually DO and HOW MUCH we could DO.
2. What will the Lord do with us when there is so much to be done and so few to do it -- and then we DO SO LITTLE . . .
3. One does not have to get drunk, commit adultery, or steal to be lost -- JUST DO NOTHING!
4. One can sit down, go to sleep spiritually, as thousands have done, and awake in Torment like the rich man . . .

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