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Almost a Christian

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ALMOST A CHRISTIAN

Word ALMOST is an adverb denoting degree or intensity. As a Verb it denotes: To-delay.

ALSO: nearly, well-nigh, and a little short-of!!

OFTEN: deals with intensions. Same as ABOUT TO!!

NOTE: Words almost, about, nearly, well-nigh etc. never denote: completion, Finality, Fulfillment!

IN RELIGION: Word (close) one of the deadliest!!!

I. KING AGRIPPA ALMOST SURRENDERED TO GOD.*A. 26:19-2
A. Some things in the King's favor. 
1. Didn't have to listen to this religious fanatic, but he did! 25:22. - 26:1.
2. He listened with interest-long & patiently. 
   Note: 14 times Paul used "I". Autobiography.
3. He was an expert in Jewish laws. 26:3.
B. The things not in his favor. 
   His undoing:
1. Politically: strong & powerful. Lose it.
2. Domestically: married to very bad woman.

III. CONCLUSION: Loved things of THIS world more than the world TO COME. Gave him an almost-religion!

QUESTION: Which is the biggest fool? (Knt.II,516)
"I trifle with things of TIME! You---ETERNITY!!" 
(King. Jester. Stick. Bigger fool than yourself!)

II. RICH YOUNG RULER ALMOST GOT HIS PRIORITIES RIGHT.
A. Had a number of things in his favor. M. 19:16-23
3. At least asked about ETERNAL LIFE. Today: they say we are giving answers to questions no one is asking! HE asked! Interested.
4. Had kept the Commandments all his life. Good Note: Past goodness BAD, if it gets in the way of present NEEDS in obeying Jesus!
B. The things not in his favor. 
   His undoing:
1. Obviously thought true religion was DOING rather than doing and BEING. John 3:3-5.
2. He kept God's law but did not love God! 
   Grieved.. Matt. Sorrowful. Mk. Sad. Lk. Very sorrowful Did not recognize God's Son, His Word, Will. OR, did and rejected all!!!
3. Jesus requested that he remove the eye, hand and foot which were an offense to God. Matt. 5:29-30. His LOVE of his wealth was his besetting sin. Must get rid of it!

4. Jesus asked him to BLESS the poor and TEACH the lost. He didn't love enough!

5. His great possessions (Lk. very rich) were his CURSE, rather than his BLESSING!

CONCLUSION: He almost became a disciple. Terms a bit too steep. Desire was there. Intention was there. Much goodness there.

LESSON: It is very HARD for those who have an abundance of earthly riches to love God enough to have the faith as a little child.

Meaning to us: It is very HARD for any of us to put God first, IF we love this world or things of this world!!!


Why correct a wrong in YOUR LIFE too late? Why wait?

III. INDECISION & DELAY OFTEN EQUAL DEATH:
Mail route around great lakes: Indian and son-in-law. Lake iced out 100 yards. Went on it. Smooth & fast! Went ashore for lunch. Stepped back on ice. CRACKED! Son-in-law jumped to shore quickly. Father-in-law hesitated 2-3 seconds. TOO late to jump! Boy begged him to jump in & swim ashore!
Water so so cold it was black! Man paralyzed by fear & indecision. Wind blowing strong and ice-flow moved rapidly into the lake. Lost!
Lost by a matter of seconds. Lost by indecision—when could have been saved.

What is YOUR decision regarding your SOUL this minute? Not a Christian? Act instantly! Mk. 16:15-16. almost not enough!

? - Faithfulness to your commitment to God? ALMOST??

Acts 8:22.