

Too Old To Be Saved

By

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A pastor experienced a very unusual call while visiting on an older man. The man boldly declared to the pastor that he was past feeling when it came to spiritual things. As the man followed the pastor to the door of his home he said, "I thank you for your visit today, and I hope it will not be the last." However, he did not stop there. He added, "As you have begun your labors among us, I wish to give you a word of advice based upon my own experience; LEAVE US OLD PEOPLE ALONE! Devote your labors to the youth of your flock."

He paused, and then continued. "Forty years old ago, I was anxious about my soul; and many at that time were converted, but I was not one of them. During the ministry of another pastor many more were converted, but I was not one of them. For years I HAVE NOT HAD A SINGLE FEELING on the subject of my salvation. I know that I am a lost sinner and I know I can only be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ, and I know that when I die I will be lost to a Christless Hell. I believe all that you preach, but feel it no more than if I were a block of marble. I expect to live and die just I am. So leave us to ourselves and our sins, and give your strength to work of the young."

That pastor later witnessed that man's death. He died just as he said without Christ because he had hardened his heart to the point he could no longer respond to the Holy Spirit's call to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The Scriptures give us solemn warning, "Harden not your hearts"

Ps 95:8, "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness."
NKJV

Heb. 12:25-26, "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven," NKJV

Contrast this man with Valentine Burke, the notorious burglar. He was reading the Globe Democrat, a newspaper in St. Louis, and saw a report of a sermon that D. L. Moody had preached. The heading they used for Moody's sermon was "How the jailer at Philippi was caught." Having spent half of his life in jails and prisons, he rubbed his hands in glee at what he thought was a Jailer getting his "just" dues. He had once passed through Philippi, Illinois and decided this must be the location where this incident took place. In reading this sermon, he kept seeing the words of exhortation "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST and you shall be saved. In disgust he threw the paper away, muttering to himself about that religious stuff. But he found that he could not get those words about Christ and salvation out of his mind. He kept thinking about his guilty past and the coming judgment when he would stand before the Lord Jesus. Burke believed God, repented of his sin and received Christ as his savior. He had become a child of God by faith. "FAITH IS THE HAND THAT TAKES GOD'S GIFT."

Eph. 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." NKJV