

The God of a New Beginning

Intro Text: II Peter 3:8-9

- 1) Poem - "Don't Quit"
- 2) One thing I've noticed about humans: We give up too easily . . . on ourselves!
- 3) We will maintain faith in others for longer than in self.
- 4) We too quickly throw in the towel.
 - a) We dwell on our inadequacies and failures.
 - b) We see others wag the head.
 - c) We become embarrassed - "It's all over."
 - d) We believe God has given up too! But we are wrong.
 - i) Our God is not like that.
 - ii) He's not like other people.
 - iii) He's not like us.
 - iv) Our God is the God of a New Beginning.
- 5) II Peter 3:8-9 - READ
- 6) In this passage - Three great truths on which to nourish the mind and rest the heart . . .

I. The God of a New Day (vs. 8)

A. Time not the same to God as man.

1. Ps. 90:4 - "A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night."
2. Did you ever think - how long God has been on the job?
 - a. "After all these thousands of years, God must not count this day as important." Bored, overwhelmed.

- b. No - it's just begun - Fresh. Work of Church today is as fresh as day of Pentecost.
 - 3. Did you ever think -
 - a. "God views history in big chunks, he's not concerned with one little guy."
 - b. Yes - he is - Knows hairs of head. Bible is a story of individual people. God molds your life - second by second.
- B. There is comfort in the thought of a God who has all eternity to work.
 - 1. We are time conscious - not God.
 - 2. We are the ones who think we have wasted our lives . . . we are out of time, not God.
 - 3. Our God is the God of . . . A New Day.
 - 4. A day of faithful service is to God as a lifetime - it is never too late.

II. The God of a New Opportunity. (vs. 9a)

- A. Time is always regarded by God as an opportunity. He is long suffering. He is patient.
 - 1. Every year - provides opportunities to repent.
 - 2. Every day - a gift of mercy.
 - 3. Every moment - a chance to do better, to improve, to draw nearer to God.
- B. I like to look at old pictures. Before, after - see changes.
 - 1. As we thumb through the photo album of the Bible we see snapshots of many characters we almost know.
 - 2. Some of them made amazing changes.
 - a. Some were counted out by the world.
 - b. Some had given up on self.

- c. But God is the God of a New Beginning!
3. For instance - look at these snapshots . . .
- a. Consider Jacob - "I am Esau thy first-born; I have done according as thou badest me; arise I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me." Gen. 27:19
 - 1) Here, he is a cheat, a liar.
 - a) We would count him out.
 - b) We would never trust men like that.
 - 2) Mistake after mistake.
 - a) Two wives
 - b) Family problems
 - c) Unruly children
 - d) God could not use a man like that
 - 3) But then - a new start.
 - a) A new name - Israel - "he who strives with God and prevailed." A fighter. No quitter.
 - b) Gen 49 - Blesses sons - foretells the Savior to come through his seed.
 - c) He was the father of God's chosen people.
 - b. Consider Joseph - problem: arrogance.
 - 1) Paid the price
 - 2) Snapshot - in pit, in prison - the boy is a loser.
 - 3) Not to God - needed a new start.
 - 4) Later - saved God's people from death.
 - c. Consider Moses - a prince in shepherds clothes.
a murderer hiding in wilderness.

a stammering tongue.
a cowardly weakling.

- 1) He gave up on himself.
 - 2) But God gave him another chance.
 - 3) Greatest leader world had ever known.
- d. Look at Jonah - a rebellious coward. Running from responsibility. Refusing to obey God.
- 1) But God doesn't let him quit!
 - 2) He was spit out on dry ground - "Go try again."
 - 3) Sometimes it takes disaster to wake us up. "Lord what are we going to do?" Go try again.
 - 4) He brought the great and mighty Nineveh to repentance. Who would have thought it?
- e. Look at David - adulterer, murderer. Made a mistake - had a fault.
- 1) But he still was called "man after God's own heart."
 - 2) Still had much to contribute. Psalms - heart of the Bible.

Our God is the God of a New Opportunity. Don't give up on Yourself!

- f. What about Peter - "With a curse - I never knew him."
- 1) But then - "Let all Israel know assuredly, this same Jesus . . ."
 - 2) What a difference . . . he needed a new start.
 - 3) "We cannot but speak the things . . ."
"We must obey God rather than . . ."
- g. And how about Paul? Persecutor of the helpless.
- 1) But then - he changed. Why?

- 2) He was given another chance.

He wrote: "In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." (Eph. 1:7)

- h. How about you? What might you become one day? What might you do for God one day?

- 1) Never give up on yourself -

- 2) For God is the God of a New Opportunity. But why?
"Because God is not willing that any perish."
A neglected truth in the New Testament.

III. God is the God of a New Incentive

- A. What moves men to greatness? Someone who believes in them. What incentive does God offer?

1. He never gives up on you.
2. He will always take you back.

- B. Marvelous truths in the Bible:

1. Ezek. 18:23 - "Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, and not rather that he should return from his way and live?"
2. I Tim. 2:4 - "God would have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of truth."
3. Titus 2:11 - "For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all . . ."

- Conclusion
- 1) Our God is the God of a New Beginning.
You may repent at any time - And with that repentance he offers:

A New Day - And with it -

A New Opportunity - And with it -

A New Incentive.

I believe in you.

- 2) Poem - "Don't quit"

3) Friend - God loves you - He is giving you a chance - Won't you come to him?