

A Call To Repentance III
By Greg Rangel

2 Peter 3:9 says, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* Since we live within the realm of time, we begin to get so impatient with many things. And one is the return of the Lord. Due to that man begins to doubt the return of the Lord, and soon enough his heart gets cold and goes back into the things of the world, that is, begins to live ungodly and without hope.

It has been almost 2000 years since Christ died for us. And for these last 2000 years, we have been awaiting His return, but He has not come. Why? Well, He is longsuffering towards man. He does not want man to perish and go to hell. He wants man to repent from his sins. That is why.

The Lord spoke through the Prophet Ezekiel saying, *“Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?... Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* (Eze. 18:31, 33:11).

God has done everything possible to save man from the eternal flames called hell. God sent His Son Jesus to pay the price that we could not pay. When Jesus was dying on the cross, He took our sins and placed them on Himself and nailed them to the cross. And in order for man to be saved, he must believe that. God does not call man to be a religious nut. God calls man to repent from his sins and believe in His Son Jesus.

When the Lord told Noah to build an ark because He was going to judge the world, it took another 120 years for the judgment to come. Why didn't the Lord judge the world right there and then? Why didn't he give Noah a modern ship like the Love Boat immediately? He of course was able to. But why didn't He? Because He was longsuffering towards man. He gave man another 120 years to repent. But man did not. They failed to believe in the Gospel message.

Peter wrote in 2 Peter 2:5 saying that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. No doubt that as he preached the Gospel to the lost in his time, they mocked him. I can almost hear them saying, “you are crazy old man! I can't believe that you believe such things! You actually believe that God will judge the world?...” But when it began to rain, they soon found out that they were wrong and that Noah was right.

People today too mock the belief that Jesus will one day return. It is for that reason that they continue to live the way that they want. But God wants man to be saved. He is longsuffering towards man. He is not anxious and waiting for man to die so that He may judge them. He is longsuffering.

Let me ask you, the reader; have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If you die today would you be so sure that you would go to heaven? Can you honestly say that you have completely been forgiven of all of your sins? Are you living in right standing with God? If you have answered no, then you are lost. What is keeping you from receiving Jesus today and from being totally forgiven? Whatever it might be, it is not worth dying over it and going to hell, not even your religion or your traditions.

You will one day die. Please realize that. Don't wait until then to find out that you were wrong. You need Jesus Christ. He is the only one that can save you and forgive you. No one else can. Your church will not save you. Your religion will not save you. Your works will not save you. Your parents will not save you. Any excuse that you give for not to believe in and receive Jesus will not save you. Don't wait until you are dead to find out that you were wrong.