

Title: "God's Answer to Excuses for Not Being Saved"

Scripture: Romans 1:18-22

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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Romans 1:18-22 *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,"*

The word excuse means "to try to remove blame from one's self". George Washington Carver stated that "99% of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." Someone once said: "one of the greatest labor saving devices of today is tomorrow." God's book has an answer for everything. Any excuse you come up with, God has an answer for.

People That Give Excuses: (all of these begin with the excuse of the group of people and are followed with God's reply)

1. **Excuses of the atheists:** There are several things that they will claim:
 - a. They will say there is no God. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1 says *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."* There are those in the world that genuinely believe that there is no God.
 - b. They will say that science has the true answers. The Bible says in I Timothy 6:20-21 *"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen."*
 - c. They will say that death is the end of man. The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27 *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"*
2. **Excuses of the agnostic:** They are people who do not have a clear believing mind as to whether there is a God or not. We call it straddling the fence. They have no foundational belief in them. Like the atheist, they have several things that they claim when confronted with salvation or the subject of God:
 - a. They say that no one knows whether there is a God or not. The Bible says in Psalm 19:1-2 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."* Verse 18 of Romans 1 says *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"*
 - b. They will say that no one knows whether the Bible is true or not. The Bible says in Psalm 119:89 *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."* II Timothy 3:16 says *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*
 - c. They will say that they don't know whether heaven exists or not. The Bible says in Matthew 10:32-33 *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."*
3. **Excuses of those who are deceived:** They are often the hardest to talk to:
 - a. They will say that their way of living is right. The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12 *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*
 - b. They will say that they are living a good life. The Bible says in James 2:10 *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."*

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- c. They will say that they are church members. The Bible says in John 3:3 *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Church membership will not get you into heaven.

4. Excuses of the unconvicted person:

- a. They will say that they are not lost. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* D.L. Moody said that in order for a person to get saved, that they must first realize that they are lost.
- b. They will say they don't believe like we do. The Bible says in John 3:18 *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*
- c. They will say that they don't have "that feeling". In the flesh they are saying that they aren't convicted over anything. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

5. Excuses of the careless:

- a. They will say that they are not good enough to be saved. The Bible says in Matthew 9:12-13 *"But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*
- b. They will say that they will get saved later. The Bible says in Isaiah 55:6 *"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"* There are two things to see in this verse: 1). There will come a time when he can't be found. 2). There will be a time when he won't be near.
- c. They will say that they would be a Christian but they can't hold out. They say that they can't live the way the Bible says. The Bible says in II Timothy 1:12 *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* None of us live perfect lives, but it doesn't mean that God stops working on us or that we should stop working for him.

6. Excuses of the ignorant: (ignorant meaning unlearned)

- a. They will say that they have committed the unpardonable sin [when they attribute the work of God to the Devil]. It's not impossible for someone to commit this sin, but it doesn't happen often. The Bible says in Romans 10:13 *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*
- b. They will say that they can't give up their sins. The Bible says in II Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* This change produce a desire to resist sin and a desire to repent when we do commit sins. King Solomon said that there is no man without sin. We should always strive not to sin.

7. Excuses of the procrastinator: (putting off today what you could do tomorrow)

- a. They will say that they will seek the Lord some other time. The Bible says in Proverbs 27:1 *"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."*
- b. They will say that they will come to Christ as long as my family does it with me. The Bible says in Mark 10:29-30 *"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."*
- c. They will say that they have plenty of time. The Bible says in Matthew 25:10-13 *"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour"*

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wherein the Son of man cometh." Time is not a respecter of persons, status, wealth, or health. We hear many of these excuses today from at least one of these groups of people. Now we know how to respond to them and show them the word of God. This will help us bring others to Christ.