



March 2010 Monthly Letter from our Minister

PROCRASTINATION

"Tomorrow will be the most wonderful day in history: that's the day when we are all going to begin doing better." The man who said that, said a mouthful. Without question one of the most widespread weaknesses of humankind is that of procrastination.

In a museum in New York City there is an interesting exhibit continually drawing large crowds because in some strange way it appeals to the imagination: a couple of dinosaur eggs. Visitors often say "Isn't it amazing. She laid those eggs millions of years ago, and here they are today untouched!"

Those dinosaur eggs are the classic symbol of failure. After all the trouble of laying them and protecting them, nothing ever came of them. How many dinosaur eggs do we have lying about in our minds and affairs: desires and ideals that have been postponed and neglected? About this tendency Jesus said, "no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Metaphysical translation: procrastinating prevents a person from experiencing the expanding realm of a heavenly state of mind or life.

Sir Oswald Mosley (1896-1980 and Member of British Parliament) once commented, "I spend most of my life among people who talk about things rather than do them. It is wonderful, the ingenuity of the human mind for finding reasons to postpone or delay action. It is the most powerful factor of modern life."

The writer James in the New Testament said, "Come now, ye that say Today or Tomorrow we will go into the city...ye know not what shall be on the morrow." And in II Corinthians Paul says, "Behold now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation..." An early church father wrote, "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but God has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

There are several causes for procrastination and a good objective look might help us to root out all such tendencies in ourselves. Every person has exalted moments of inspiration when he sees greater possibilities for himself and thus resolves to pursue a course leading to fulfillment. But often this exalted moment fades from memory leaving only the slightest impress behind it. Philosopher/Theologian William James says, "Seize the very first possible opportunity to act on every resolution you make and on every prompting you may experience in the direction of the habits you aspire to gain."

To begin a thing is often half the battle. Charles Fillmore, co-founder of the Unity Movement, used this affirmation to ward off the tendency to procrastinate: "The spirit of honesty, promptness, and efficiency inspires me to know the things that should be done by me NOW!"

God loves you and so do I,

Glenn Mosley