

# Banner

"You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of truth." Psalm 60:4



*"Pleasing God,  
Making Disciples  
of  
Jesus Christ"*

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF QUIDNESSETT BAPTIST CHURCH

**B**een hurried lately? I mean find yourself with more schedule than time? Perhaps a little frazzled at the end of the day? Even to the point where attention to your Bible is either placed in the land of "too tired" or hurried through a required reading?

All of us are victimized at times by being in a hurry.

It may range from rushing to be someplace to meeting deadlines on projects to organizing the weekly events of the family. Hurry knows no partiality and sooner or later, we will feel its tug on our persons.

I often wonder if this condition of being in a hurry is a western world thing. Is it primarily a part of our American culture that we simply resign ourselves to accept?

When I lived in Italy for three

years I noticed quite a difference. Hurry seemed to only apply on the roads with the little cars zipping in and out of traffic. The people took their time even to the point of frustration on the part of this American in a foreign land. In hindsight, I think there was a lot to be said for

***"In the spiritual realm, a hurried life guarantees a shallow life."***

the slower pace of life I observed. However, all hurry isn't bad. In fact, even in the spiritual realm being in a hurry makes for a good thing, if properly applied. Be aware, though, overall in the spiritual realm a hurried life guarantees a shallow life.

In this issue of the Banner, we will tackle the topic of hurry looking at both the positive and negative aspect.

So, sit back and be challenged by this issue of your Banner!

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# The Quidnessett BANNER

## GOSPEL GLIMPSES

One can imagine what was racing through his mind. "All I want to do is see Jesus. This crowd! So pressing! Oh, to be a little taller, a little stronger, I'd push through this crowd and get to Him."

Zacchaeus never had a chance. Overwhelmed by a crowd thick as a fog on Narragansett Bay, he wouldn't get to Jesus. The little man faced two decisions - either give up, disappointed and resigned, or get in a hurry. For his soul's sake, he chose to get moving and this time, being in a hurry proved to be a very, very good thing.

*He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Je-*

*sus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today. So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully (LUKE 19:1-6).*

The lessons on hurry from Zacchaeus focus on seeking to know the Lord Jesus. One can never be in too much of a hurry to know the Lord. But what happens so often is that we get in a hurry to be in church, to read the Bible, to grab the latest book, and all the while knowing the Lord is relegated to a secondary issue. For Zacchaeus, his consuming desire was Jesus and no matter the

cost, he would get to Him.

Let's take a couple of principles from Zacchaeus about seeking to know the Lord Jesus.

First, separation from the world is essential to intimacy with Jesus. Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd, climbed a tree, and waited. Imagine the anticipation as he sat on the limb of the tree. Being in a hurry to separate oneself from the world sets the environment for knowing Christ. It is a separation both physically and spiritually.

A second lesson, be in a hurry to obey what the Lord reveals to you. Jesus commanded Zacchaeus to come down and join Him. Alone time with Jesus will result in truth revealed to obey. After all, it is the measurement of our love for Him.

So, learn a right type of hurry today - Zacchaeus-style!

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Right above us is the story of Zacchaeus and the right type of hurry. His story is the exception when it comes to the spiritual life. For the most part, hurry in the spiritual realm proves disastrous.

Solomon penned two important verses in Proverbs revealing the danger of hurry or haste.

*Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way (Proverbs 19:2).*

The last part of the verse in the King James Version reads *and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth*. Charles Bridges in his classic commentary on Proverbs writes, "In common life how much sin has been the fruit of a few rash words and lines. Let us remember that without self-discipline there can be no Christian consistency or stability. In a

thousand cases haste may plunge our feet into sin.

The lesson from Solomon and Bridges concerning hurry or haste is simple and serious. Being in a hurry may place us in a position of sin either in word or deed, commission or omission. The reason? A hurried

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***"Being a hurry in our spiritual life is often due to lack of Christ-prioritized living."***

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Christian takes no thought of the armor of God or the enemy of God. To rush into the day without spiritual preparation invites the foe of souls to wreak havoc. How many times have we rushed into the day without proper communion with the Lord? Haste or hurry starts the day and leaves behind the essential armor of God to fight the world, the flesh, and the devil? To many, I am afraid, the landscape is full of hurried, defeated

Christians!

Second lesson from Solomon concerning hurry or haste is found in Proverbs 21:5.

*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty (Proverbs 21:5).*

Bridges again comments, "Run not with haste or speed, but with patience the race set before us." The Christian life must be approached "on purpose". Solomon says, "*the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance.*" When one surveys the life of the Lord Jesus, absent is a sense of hurry. Yes, urgency, not hurry and a life lived on purpose. Being in a hurry in our spiritual life is often due to lack of Christ-prioritized living.

Let us consciously stop hurry in our spiritual realm to avoid sin and to increase in Christlikeness. The decision not to be in a hurry is ours.



## GOD IS THE GOSPEL

John Piper

*Crossway*

*Hardbound, 179 pages*

Our review is taken from the inner book cover of *God is the Gospel* and is so good, it warrants the writing.

Saturated with scripture, centered on the cross, and seriously joyful, this book leads us to satisfaction for the deep hungers of the soul. It touches us as the root of life where practical transformation gets its daily power. It awakens our longing for Christ and opens our eyes to His beauty.

Piper writes for the soul-thirsty who have turned away empty from the mirage of methodology. He invites us to slow down and drink from a deep spring. This is a book to challenge you and drive you to the Lord Jesus who is eternal life

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“The man who tries to do something and fails is infinitely better than the man who tries to do nothing and succeeds.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

How does one overcome a hurried

### WALKING WITH THE MASTER

life and especially a hurried spiritual life? Before we look at the antidote to hurry, let’s determine whether or not one is guilty of spiritual hurry. This assessment is easy. We are guilty of spiritual hurry if the following are true - prayer without a sense of God’s presence and Bible reading that is forgotten as soon as the Book is closed.

Now the way out. One of the greatest benefits of salvation is the power of choice. We don’t have to be in a hurry. We choose to be in a hurry or we choose not to be in a hurry. The opposite of being in a hurry is being meditative. As believers we need to learn how to meditate upon the Lord and His Word. Failure to do so ensures spiritual barrenness.

There are three means to medita-

tion upon the scriptures that if practiced will slay the hurry monster.

In reading any portion of scripture, first ask the question, “What does it say?” This is observation. Secondly, ask, “What does the passage mean?” This is interpretation. Thirdly, ask, “How does this truth relate to me?” This is application. When combined all make up the Biblical discipline of meditation.

The Psalmist wrote, “I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways” (Psalm 119:15). Meditation and fixation upon the scriptures are choices made by the believer. Spiritual hurry is a choice that will drive one away from meditation and fixation to a place of spiritual poverty and frustration. May we choose not to be in a spiritual hurry.

### DID YOU KNOW?



In this segment of the Banner, we will focus on the early years of the great reformer Martin Luther.

- Luther almost died at age 19. On his way home from school, a dagger pierced his leg, cutting an artery. Only because of a friend, who fetched a doctor, was his life saved.
- By the end of his life, Martin Luther wrote 60,000 pages, yet he hoped that “all my books would disappear and the Holy Scriptures alone be read.”
- At birth, Martin Luther’s name was Martin Luder. He later changed it to the more academically respectable Luther.
- While walking back to law school in 1505, Luther encountered a frightening thunderstorm. During the storm he cried out in fear, “Help me, St. Anna! I will become a monk.”
- Luther translated Erasmus’ Greek New Testament into German at the headlong rate of more than 1,500 words per day.
- Luther publicly criticized the abuse of indulgences more than three years before he published his 95 Theses on the topic.
- Luther probably had eight siblings, yet only one of his brothers and only three of his sisters survived to adulthood.

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## The Danger of Hurry

### ***QBC HAPPENINGS***

#### JANUARY 2007

- Young at Heart Fellowship will be held on *Tuesday, January 9th*
- Church family potluck followed by the annual meeting will be held on *Friday, January 26th at 5:45 p.m.*
- Part 4 of the DVD series **DOES THE TRUTH MATTER ANY-MORE?** will be shown on *Sunday evening, January 28th*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, January 30th.*

#### FEBRUARY 2007

- Part 5 of the DVD series **DOES THE TRUTH MATTER ANY-MORE?** will be shown on *Sunday evening, February 11th*
- Young at Heart Fellowship will be held on *Tuesday, February 13th*
- Annual Sweetheart Banquet will be held *Friday, February 16th*
- Men's Ministry Fellowship will be held *Tuesday, February 27th.*

THE QUIDNESSETT

# **Banner**

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Making Disciples  
of  
Jesus Christ"



The Quidnessett Banner is the bi-monthly newsletter of Quidnessett Baptist Church. It is free of charge and readily available for all who would like to be placed on our mailing list. If you desire to receive The Quidnessett Banner in your home, simply contact the church office.

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