



What's The Big Hurry

We have an expression, “You need to stop and smell the roses.” which is usually employed when we encounter someone who just never takes time to stop and appreciate anything. We see people every day who are in such a hurry but they never really seem to get anywhere. These folks are referred to sometimes as type A personalities. We have other expressions as well that are meant to point out that we need to take notice of the things around us, to give more thought and internal reflection to our actions before we do something and that we need to weigh the pros and cons of the consequences so that we understand what we are getting ourselves into. When it comes to life in general, do we have a plan for our lives, or do we live day to day hoping for the best and just keep our heads down waiting for the bad stuff to happen or skip over us. In the meantime are we so shortsighted that we can only concentrate on the momentary pleasures and concerns that come our way. This is not a new way of thinking. Most folks are caught up in the “hurry up and wait” culture that we live in. Other cultures in the past have been much the same way. The Babylonians were characterized as a hasty and impetuous people in the prediction of the destruction of Judah (**Hab 1.6**). Sometimes we are all caught up in situations and really do not stop to consider what the long term consequences are going to be. The scriptures tell of some who allowed themselves to get into the same type of thinking with dire consequences. As Saul and Israel prepared to fight the Philistines, and knew that their enemy approached, they were to wait for Samuel at Gilgal for seven days. Samuel was delayed in his arrival and Saul became fearful that the people were going to depart from him (there were already many who were hiding in caves at the approach of the Philistines—**1 Sam 13.5-6**). He took it upon himself to offer sacrifices to God that he was not authorized to do (**1 Sam 13.9**). As soon as he had done so however, Samuel arrived and the excuses began (**1 Sam 13.10-12**). This was only the beginning of Saul's troubles however as he continued to exercise his own will

and not the will of God because he did not take time to consider the consequences of his actions. Eventually his lack of attention to the commands of God cost him the throne and led him to attempt to kill David whom God had chosen as his successor. We also have a saying, “Haste makes waste” which we use to demonstrate how problems are created when we do not take the time to think about our actions and their outcomes. We will all make mistakes in this life and hopefully we will have the time and resources to correct them and not damage others in the process. By acting hastily, not thinking and not taking the time to know what needs to be done, we will make mistakes that may not be fixable later. But, just slowing down and taking our time with things is not the total answer to doing things right although it is a step in the right direction. In a spiritual sense we stop and smell the roses, so to speak, by taking the time to read and study God's word. When we meditate on it we come to an understanding of how to be pleasing to God. The wisdom in this course of action is expressed in the Psalms. “*I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*” (**Psm 119.99**). We then learn how to put it into action to guide our lives in such a way that we will be pleasing to God as also stated in the Psalms. “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*” (**Psm 119.105**). It takes time to comprehend the meaning of the scriptures and we must suspend other activities to accomplish this. We make time for things we like and begin to love them because they are important to us. We may not immediately “feel” the benefits of studying and obeying God but they will become more apparent as we become more spiritually minded. Unfortunately even religion has fallen victim to the idea of convenience. The microwave mindset has produced a culture that cannot wait to see what the benefits of something in our lives are. We might all admit that we would like to be more patient. We just don't have time for it. Isn't it comforting to know that God has patience for us and with us?