

## Have You Ever Wondered? - (Conclusion)

Many early Christians probably just wished they could worship God in peace and quiet. All they wanted to do was to preach the Word of God to their fellowman and help others go to heaven. Paul did not wish for more money or a greater retirement plan, he wanted his brethren to be saved. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel [\[fn\]](#) is that they may be saved" (Romans 10.1). Those that met for a whole year at Antioch in Acts 11 made a lot of daily sacrifices so as to meet each day with their brethren and teachers. They may have wished for a time when they could simply pick up a Bible in order to know the Word of God as we can do today.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians decided to stay home instead of hear Paul or Barnabas preach? I am sure some were tempted to do so since there is a warning given in Hebrews 11, "24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." But I wonder how many actually were sporadic in their attendance.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians backslide in the first century? We read of men like Hymenaeus and Philetus who strayed from the truth in 2 Timothy 2.17-18. Young widows were told to remarry less they cast off their first love and get involved in things like gossip and being busy bodies, 1 Timothy 4.11-13. Peter warns us of going back into the world in 2 Peter 2. I don't know about you but the picture of a dog vomiting and eating its own vomit is pretty disgusting. That is what some Christians did in the first century. We will never know how many felt the price was too high to pay to be a Christian. But we do know they were wrong, just as those who do the same thing today are also wrong.

Have you ever wondered how many Christians in the first century await the Day of Judgment? They paid the price and remained faithful to the very end, Revelation 2.10. Revelation 6 speaks of those that were slain on the altar for the word of God. "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" (Revelation 6.10) All we know is that it is not as long now as it was then and it will come.

Perhaps you have not been tempted to wonder and wish like I have. Perhaps you have been tempted to quit or compromise the word of God for an easier road. But let us not

lose sight of why we are doing what we are doing and realize the many blessings we have today. -- Dennis Tucker