



# F. Y. C.

## For Your Consideration

*“Let us consider  
how to stimulate  
one another to love  
and good deeds.”*

Hebrews 10:24

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*“Be thoughtful and kind.”*

## BIBLE RESOURCES

<http://ra10ar.com>

(Quotations from NASB)

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## EXCUSE

– American Heritage Dictionary

An explanation offered to justify or obtain forgiveness.

To seek to remove the blame.

To explain in the hope of being forgiven or understood.

## THE ‘LOSER’S LIMP’

Today we have a generation of men who suffer from “loser’s limp.” Anyone who has competed in sports knows what is meant by “loser’s limp.” It’s what happens when an outfielder misjudges a fly ball and misses the catch, or when a wide receiver drops an easy pass. They fall to the ground and get up limping. The purpose of the limp is to camouflage their failure.<sup>1</sup>



All of us know when we fail in our efforts. We know when we fail in job performance, family obligations, or in our actions towards others. We feel the sting of our conscience pricking us. Feelings of guilt rush into our consciousness. Such feelings are troubling and must be dealt with. If we are honest, we will admit to ourselves (and others) that we have fallen short, and with a change of heart determine to correct the problem and determine not to do it again. If we seek to justify our failures, we develop the “loser’s limp” – blaming some influence, force, or circumstance.

“I couldn’t because ...” is offered as justification for inaction. “I would have, but ...” is submitted as the cause for shirking responsibilities. “If it weren’t for ...” is submitted as a defense for failure.

Similarly, people develop the “loser’s limp” when attempting to defend their transgressions, their insensitivity to the needs of others, or their poor attitude toward serving the Lord. They deceive themselves, thinking they are excused or justified. Most of the time such limping is convincing only to the one doing it. Whether brethren buy into such excuses is really unimportant; what is important is that the Lord’s scoffs at such nonsense.

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”*

Galatians 6:7-10

The next time we find ourselves falling short in our performance as a Christian, let’s not feign the loser’s limp, but stand upright and accept full responsibility for our actions or inaction. Then, and only then, are we in position to make the needed changes, to receive forgiveness from the Lord, and to have the support and understanding of the brethren.

<sup>1</sup> from the book “No More Excuses” by Tony Evans

**Succinctly  
Put**

**‘Tis so true: Most failures are experts  
at making excuses.**

## THE REST OF THE STORY FOLLOWING THE APOSTLE PAUL'S RELEASE

The book of Acts ends with Paul in Rome under house arrest. What happened after that? That question can be answered by piecing together what is contained in the letters he wrote afterwards. Here is an outline of what happened.

### PAUL TRAVELS TO SPAIN?

Tradition says he went to Spain, fulfilling his expressed desire. (Rom.15:28). There is, however, no evidence to sustain this view.

### PLACES PAUL VISITED

There is evidence that Paul, at one time or another, went to the following places. However, the exact order is difficult to determine.

**Colossae.** Fulfilling his intentions to visit Philemon. Phm.22

**Ephesus**, where he leaves Timothy, charging him to carry on the work in that area. 1Ti.1:3

**Macedonia**, which would include **Thessalonica** and **Philippi**. Cf. Phi.2:24

(PAUL PENS HIS FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY)

**Crete**, where he leaves Titus to finish the work. Tit.1:5

**Nicopolis**, where he hopes to winter. Titus was to join him there. Tit.3:12

**Miletus**, where he leaves Trophimus sick. 2Ti.4:20

**Troas**, where he leaves behind his cloak and parchments. 2Ti.4:13

**Corinth**, where his helper, Erastus, remained. 2Ti.4:20

### PAUL BACK IN ROME

This time as a "criminal" in chains. 2Ti.2:9

Paul sees no hope for his release. 2Ti.4:6-8

The trial has already begun. 2Ti.4:16-18

**Timothy** is aware that many in Asia oppose Paul. 2Ti.1:15

(PAUL PENS HIS SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY)

Phygelus and Hermogenes are specifically mentioned. Hymenaeus and Philetus are said to have "gone astray." 2Ti.2:17-18

**Demas** deserts Paul, goes to Thessalonica. 2Ti.4:10

Only **Luke** remains with him. 2Ti.4:11

### PAUL'S FELLOW-WORKERS CARRY ON THE WORK

**Crescens** in Galatia. 2Ti.4:10

**Titus** goes to Dalmatia. 2Ti.4:10

**Tychicus** is sent to Ephesus. 2Ti.4:12

**Erastus** remains in Corinth. 2Ti.4:20

**Timothy** is asked to come to Rome by way of Troas; bringing **Mark** with him. 2Ti.4:11,13

– From "The Life of Paul" posted at <http://ra10ar.com>

## ONE ANOTHER

A Reciprocal Relationship

### Bear One Another's Burden

*Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2

### Three things are necessary to do this.

#### AWARENESS

Unless there is contact and communication with each other there is no way to know who is burdened and in need of help.

#### MOTIVATION

Being ready and available to assist one in need. Eager to lend a helping hand.

#### ACTION

Follow through. Fulfilling the need. Kind thoughts and words must result in fulfilling the need.

#### WORDS WITHOUT WORK

*If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?*

James 2:15-16

#### RECIPROCAL

*For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality—at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality; as it is written, "he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack."*

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

## QUESTION

"Do you think it is wrong to [supply any current topic]?"

## ANSWER

"It doesn't matter what you or I think. It's what the Bible says that matters."