

# Come Before Winter

2 Timothy 4:9, 21

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me. (2 Timothy 4:9)

Do thy diligence to come before winter. (2 Timothy 4:21)

## Introduction:

(1) Our text (2 Timothy 4:21) is lifted from among \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ written by the Apostle Paul that are recorded in our Bible.

(2) Why “before winter”?

- Practical Reason—  
Mediterranean Sea often became non-navigable in midst of winter
- Personal Reason—  
Premonition by Paul: he was going to die (cf. 4:6)

(3) Autumn is a perfect parable of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
of “life’s passing opportunities.”

(4) Thus the appeal of *Come Before Winter* underscores “the urgency of  
NOW.” The short, urgent word NOW is found 277 times in our Bible.

(5) Some things must be done NOW—tomorrow may be “too late”:

## I. In Relation to C \_\_\_\_\_

“And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee.” (Psalm 39:7)

“Now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2b)

A. Receiving Christ

You can come to Christ in time to save your soul—but TOO LATE to:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

The only SURE time you can be saved is right NOW.

The earlier in life you can become a Christian, always the better it is.

B. Sharing Christ

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to  
harvest” (John 4:35).

1. People May \_\_\_\_\_ (no “second chance”)

2. People May \_\_\_\_\_ (without Christ)

## II. In Relation to O \_\_\_\_\_

A. A Question: Do you like the person you’re becoming?

B. A Principle: You are in the process of becoming forever in the  
character you are right now—UNLESS you make the conscious  
decision to change.

1. Our character is essentially our value system.

2. We can change our character (with God’s help), but not just any  
time we take a notion.

- There is a time we \_\_\_\_\_ change if we \_\_\_\_\_.

- There is a time we \_\_\_\_\_ change if we \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. In Relation to O \_\_\_\_\_

“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then  
vanishes.” (James 4:14)

A. Using Our \_\_\_\_\_

1. Immediate resources

2. Ultimate resources

- Currently 75% of adults in the USA who die do so intestate.

B. Mending \_\_\_\_\_

1. Princess Diana and her Mother

2. Jamie Mills, *Reader’s Digest*; last words to her dad, “I hate you!”

C. Expressing \_\_\_\_\_ (Spoken or Written)

1. Testimony of Billy Graham

2. Testimony of No Name, No City, No State (and No Son!)

3. Testimony of CTC

a. To Sunday School Teacher (Emil Lang)

b. To Betty Wynne (Rayle, GA)

## Conclusion:

(1) The specific objective of this sermon on “the passing of life’s

opportunities” is to compel us to \_\_\_\_\_—and to do so \_\_\_\_\_  
—before it is too late; avoid the “peril of procrastination.”

(2) The smallest \_\_\_\_\_ is always better than the biggest \_\_\_\_\_.