

WHY IS THE GOSPEL LATE?

(Keep Your Eyes on the Prize) (The Joy of Faithfulness)

1. RUTS

We settle down into ruts because they are comfortable
Israel went to Egypt to escape, but they stayed there too long. They forgot the task before them. Later again, Israel stopped fighting before the enemy was completely ousted from their land.

2. OUR OWN WAY

We try to accomplish things in our own way without seeking God's guidance and help. We act in haste without consulting God.

3. SIN

We get into sin.
Example: Moses' anger

4. DISCOURAGEMENT

Letting Difficulties overwhelm faith
We concentrate on the difficulty of the problems instead of concentrating on God's ability to solve the problems.
Example: The Hebrew spies when they first came to the border of the promised land
Result: A whole generation died without ever entering the land, a whole generation spent their lives walking in circles in the desert without hope.

Conclusion:
We can lose not just rewards, not just personal blessing, but whole generations for God.

Our Goal:
Faithfulness, year after year
A mindset not to be deterred by hardships, a mindset to endure so as to overcome handicaps with God's help

Single-mindedness "Focus on the prize"
Paul's single-mindedness helped him to seize opportunities.
Paul's single-mindedness helped him to overcome handicaps.
Paul's single-mindedness helped him to endure hardships.
Paul's single-mindedness helped him to remain faithful to the end.