

## **“I’m Not Ready”**

**By Pastor Bill Hayden**

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When I was a youth playing tag football on the streets of Gary, Indiana, I ignored my mother’s request to come home. At first, she asked my sister to tell me to go home, and I said, “OK, I’ll be there.” I was determined to finish the game because it was close, and we started winning. Later, my mother yelled from the porch, and I said, “OK, I’m coming!” After a while, she returned to the porch, and my response was the same. I will never forget a few minutes later, she marched down the street as I ran to catch a pass, with three willow switches in hand. Matter-of-factly, she began to escort me home, telling me, “I told you to come home.”

As my peers observed the love I was receiving, my response to my mother was, “I was coming home, Mom! I was coming home!” I did not turn around as I walked briskly home, trying to play it cool as she applied the strokes of love to my back.

I learned a valuable lesson: You can’t keep putting off the things you need to do to maintain a healthy life. What was I thinking? That was Mom I kept putting off.

We can postpone commitments for a more convenient time or avoid them altogether. It’s not unusual to defer a dentist or doctor’s appointment, especially if we anticipate an unfavorable report. You may even avoid paying your taxes if you owe the government, but sooner or later, they will come for you, and you will pay the reaper.

We cannot ignore, postpone, or avoid the day and time to meet the Lord face to face. I think that we are all aware that someday will be our last day, and everything we thought was more important will no longer have its pull on us.

Are you failing to respond to a request to have a relationship with the One who loves you and holds life and death in their hands? As a youth, it was my mother who held that authority!

Hebrews 3:14-15 ESV *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

Please celebrate with us and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at [villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvillagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club)