

“eDisciples Viewpoint
When It’s Time to Close the Door
Part One

Text: Titus 3:10

Intro: Dr. Henry Cloud made this observation, “For us to ever get to a new level, a new tomorrow, or the next step, *something* has to end.” The fact is, the next level requires ending something. Some people are desperately wanting things to be different, but they don’t want anything to change. It’s been said that some things die and some things need to be killed. In this lesson I want to deal with this lesson: **Good cannot begin until the bad ends.**

- I. Titus 3:10.
 - A. This is what it says in the original Greek, “*Someone among you is heretic (factious or divisive), admonish once and a second time then avoid*” (Adams, Greek Translation).
 1. I find it very troubling when someone leaves the church.
 - a. This person was arguing about genealogies and various points in the law.
 - b. It wasn’t just that he had a difference of opinion, but this person was splitting the congregation into factions- one against the other.
 - c. His behavior was becoming toxic to the congregation.
 - d. Paul instructed Titus to try to reason with this divisive person twice.
 2. It became clear that Good Cannot Begin Until the Bad Ends.
 - a. There was a point when, for the good of the congregation, that the person had to be avoided or to be made to leave.
 - b. Paul went on to say that his unwillingness to receive correction revealed his inner perversion
 - B. Examples of necessary endings so growth or health can come.
 1. In business, endings often are necessary for a turnaround or growth to occur.
 - a. For example, old product lines whose day has passed.
 - b. Sears finally had to give way to the online market industry.
 2. Some behaviors or practices must go in order for the good to come.
 - a. Some people need to grow up.
 - 1) They always have an excuse why the job just won’t work for them.
 - 2) There is always a reason why they can’t make it into work.
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 13:11
 - b. Until you stop this destructive behavior success will never be able to come into your life.
 3. Some relationships need to end so that God can open the door for good to come in.
- II. Why We Avoid Endings.
 - A. We hang on too long when we should end something now.
 - B. Confusion, is an ending actually necessary or is it fixable.
 - C. We are afraid of the unknown.
 - D. Some fear confrontation.
 - E. We sometimes avoid endings because of a fear of failure- we are reluctant to admit failure.
- III. Abraham Lincoln and the Prize Pig.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln told this story, “I used to know [an old farmer] out in Illinois. He took it into his head to go into hog-raising, so he sent out to Europe and imported the finest breed of hogs that he could buy. The prize hog was put in a pen and the farmer’s two

mischievous boys, James and John, were told to be sure not to let it out. But James let the brute out the very next day.

The hog went straight for the boys and drove John up a tree. Then it went for the seat of James' trousers, and the only way the boy could save himself was by holding onto the porker's tail. The hog would not give up his hunt, nor the boy his hold. After they had made a good many circles around the tree, the boy's courage began to give out, and he shouted to his brother: "I say John, come down quick and help me let go of this hog!"

- B. It is my prayer that God will help us to end the things that are holding us back from all that God wants to do in our lives.