ONE MORE NIGHT WITH THE FROGS
Exodus 8:1-15

Intro.
A. We often laugh at procrastinators. I heard of a procrastinators club -- their motto was "Why wait, procrastinate now!" Of course the club never got together, they were constantly postponing their meetings. Procrastination can be a very destructive habit.

B. Several stories in the Bible teach the peril and foolishness of procrastination. The account in our text is of the second plague which the Lord sent upon Egypt to influence Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go free.

1. Exodus 8:1-15 ---- "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Let My people go, that they may serve Me. "But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite your whole territory with frogs. "And the Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. "So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.'"' Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’”” So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magicians did the same with their secret arts, making frogs come up on the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, “Entreat the Lord that He remove the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the Lord.” And Moses said to Pharaoh, “The honor is yours to tell me: when shall I entreat for you and your servants and your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses, that they may be left only in the Nile?” Then he said, “Tomorrow.” So he said, “May it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God. “And the frogs will depart from you and your houses and your servants and your people; they will be left only in the Nile.” Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the Lord concerning the frogs which He had inflicted upon Pharaoh. And the Lord did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died out of the houses, the courts, and the fields. So they piled them in heaps, and the land became foul. But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.” (Exodus 8:1-15, NASB)

a. Pharaoh was given the honor of choosing when the frogs would leave (vs. 9).

b. Notice his answer: "Tomorrow." Why would a man consciously choose one more night of frogs? But don't people today do the same ...

I. WHEN OUR NEIGHBORS ARE LOST IN SIN
A. Is the lost condition of friends and neighbors troubling to us, as it was to Paul, Romans 9:2 ---- (NASB) - 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. -"that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart." (NKJV)

1. What are we doing about it - “I'll talk with them later...?”

B. We must not be complacent! ILLUSTRATION:

1. A farm boy accidentally overturned his wagonload of corn in the road. The farmer who lived nearby came to investigate. "Hey, Willis," he called out, "forget your troubles for a spell and come on in and have dinner with us. Then I'll help you get the wagon up." "That's mighty nice of you," Willis answered, "But I don't think Pa would like me to." "Aw, come on, son!" the farmer insisted. "Well, okay," the boy finally agreed. "But Pa won't like it." After a hearty dinner, Willis thanked his host. "I feel a lot better now, but I just know Pa is going to be real upset." "Don't be foolish!" exclaimed the neighbor. "By the way, where is he?" "Under the wagon."
II. WHEN THE CHURCH IS NOT WHAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN FORM OR FUNCTION.
A. Like Moses building the tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5) - “who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”” (NASB), the church must follow a God given pattern in all things - not just in some things that are convenient.
1. But often we see something that needs correction, something the church should be doing that it's not, or something it should not be doing which it is, and we just let it go. - brethren this is Sin and no sin will enter into Heaven.
   a. After all, that's the way it's always been! One more night of frogs.

B. We may also put up with false teaching which is spiritually hurtful, 2 Corinthians 11:4, 19-20
1. 2 Corinthians 11:4 (NASB) - 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.
   a. 2 Corinthians 11:19-20 (NASB) - 19 For you, being so wise, bear with the foolish gladly. 20 For you bear with anyone if he enslaves you, if he devours you, if he takes advantage of you, if he exalts himself, if he hits you in the face.

2. The result of putting off correcting error is often that an entire congregation makes shipwreck of the faith.
3. Be careful with who you associate - without wisdom we may be led away by the smoothness of their words - false teachers don’t come into our midst dressed in a red suit with a pitch fork in hand - they may come in as humble men of God but their aim is to become lords and the arrogance of such is seen in their actions.
   a. Flee brethren - you can’t hold fire to your breast and not come away smelling like smoke.

C. The steamship "Central America," on a voyage from New York to San Francisco, sprung a leak in mid-ocean. A vessel seeing her signal of distress bore down toward her. Perceiving the danger to be imminent, the captain of the rescue ship spoke to the "Central America," "What is amiss?"
"We are in bad repair and are going down; lie by till morning;" was the answer. "Let me take your passengers on board now." But as it was night, the commander of the "Central America" did not like to send his passengers away lest some might be lost, and thinking that they could keep afloat awhile longer replied: "Lie by till morning." Once again the Captain of the rescue ship called, "you had better let me take them now." "Lie by till morning." was sounded back through the trumpet. About an hour and a half later, her lights were missed and, though no sound was heard, the "Central America" had gone down and all on board perished because it was thought they could be saved better at another time. – Pulpit Treasury

III. WHEN WE ARE BURDENED WITH THE CARES AND TROUBLES OF LIFE.
A. We know that we can turn all these things over to God and He will help us handle them (Philippians 4:6, I Peter 5:7: "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.")
1. Philippians 4:6 (NASB) ---- 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
2. 1 Peter 5:7 (NASB) ---- 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.
3. What has worrying ever accomplished for anyone?
B. But often, for some reason, we want to spend one more night with the frogs
1. How To Forfeit Peace:
   a. Resent God's ways.
   b. Worry as much as possible.
   c. Pray only about things you can't manage by yourself.
   d. Refuse to accept what God gives.
e. Look for peace elsewhere than in Him.
f. Try to rule your own life.
g. Doubt God’s word.
h. Carry all you cares.  (From Lists to Live By, by Alice Gray, Steve Stephens, & John Van Diest p. 204)

IV. WHEN WE'RE LIVING WITH SIN IN OUR LIVES.
A. The wretchedness of one who basically wants to do right, but continues to live in sin is described in Romans 7:19-24 - (NASB) ---- "For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
1. Sin is so destructive that if we leave it alone it becomes a cancer.
2. Eg. “Flesh eating bacteria” - how long would you leave it alone before taking drastic steps to save ones life.
3. Eg. Hiker who got trapped under a rock cut off his hand because he knew nobody knew were he was.

B. Paul feared that even among the Corinthians he would find those who had not repented of sins they had practiced (2 Corinthians 12:20-21), and were thus living with one more night of frogs.
1. 2 Corinthians 12:20-21 (NASB) ---- 20 For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances; 21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.

C. How many times do we do the same?

V. WHEN LIVING WITHOUT HOPE, WITHOUT CHRIST, WITHOUT GOD.
A. Before one becomes a Christian he is in the category of those Paul describes in Ephesians 2:12 (NASB) ---- "remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

B. Those who Paul preached to in Athens were totally lost, not even knowing the identity of the one true God. Paul revealed Him to them; Yet, they told Paul "We will hear you again on this matter." (Acts 17:32). One more night of frogs.

C. Felix was in fear in his condition, yet he wanted to wait for a more convenient time (Acts 24:25). One more night of frogs.

D. We’re saying the same thing, in essence, when we put off becoming a Christian. We should “Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6).

VI. Concl.
A. God give us the strength and courage to rid ourselves of the frogs TODAY! 2 Corinthians 6:2 ---- “For He says:”In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have
helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

B. He never attended services here, and no one can recall ever hearing him give a testimony of his faith in Christ, so I can't say. I only know he was a man of his word. He promised to come to church just as soon as he got straightened out -- and he did!" DOA