

OCTOBER 2017

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ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

“WHY ATTENDING CHURCH REGULARLY IS IMPORTANT”

by: Rev. Casey Chapman, senior pastor

“My own devotions are enough.” “I watch church on TV in my living room.” “I don’t like being around people.” “The church is not a building but the people.” “I have been hurt by a church.” All of these and more are reasons that

people give for not attending a church on a regular basis. Perhaps you have thought or said one of

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these things when someone has invited you to church. If so then this article is for you.

We have moved from a society where attending church weekly was the norm of life to a culture of independence. The world teaches that you can take care of yourself and that you should not be dependent on others, even the church. While independence can be good it can also shut one’s self from experiencing God to the fullest.

The word church occurs in the KJV of the Bible 116 times. Each time it is in reference to the body of believers in Jesus Christ. While it is true that the church is not a building, it is also true that the church is not a single person. The church is

made up of the **people** who believe Jesus is the Christ and the Son of

God and follow Him. It is absolutely true that a person can praise, worship, and pray to God by themselves and this is a good thing. The problem occurs when you replace meeting with the church, fellow believers, with your private worship. The Bible actually calls this sin. Hebrews 10:24-25 gives a command, “And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from worship meetings, as some habitually

BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Marburger

10/13

Cole Devine

10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

None

UPCOMING

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00

WED. BIBLE STUDY 6:00

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do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near" (HCSB). If the Bible commands a person to not stay away from worship meetings then those who break that command are living in sin. Perhaps you are struggling to experience God. Perhaps you feel that He does not hear your prayers. Then I ask are you seeking Him by being involved with His church? The church is a place of encouragement, promoting love and good works. It is a place where strangers in the world, but brothers or sisters in Christ are concerned in love for one another. The end of verse 25 says that you should attend worship meetings "all

the more as you see the day drawing near." Most Christians agree that we are living in the end times and that the day is drawing near.

If you have been staying away from church or only attending on the holidays, now is the time to change sinful habits and to return to the fellowship of the body of Christ. Attending church does not mean that your life is going to be easy. It does not mean that you are never going to get your feelings hurt. Unfortunately, the church currently exists in a fallen world, and her members are still in the fleshly nature of man. From time to time a fellow brother or sister may say something in the

heat of the moment, but that does not mean you quit or give up on the church, but we forgive one another and move on. If you have grown up in a family with brothers or sisters I am sure you have had your arguments, even arguments between husband and wife, but yet you did not leave your family so why leave your Heavenly family? I am truly sorry if you have been hurt in the church. But let us not focus on our faults, but seek to grow more Christ like. Let us meet with a spirit of forgiveness and love and embrace one another for we are all one family, the family of God.

POWER THOUGHTS FOR OCTOBER

† If you are thirsty, drink from the Living Water Jesus Christ. He will save your soul and make you whole. You will never be thirsty again. – submitted by Janet Work Cabbage from Texas

† Not watching football today? Try coming to Church.

† Did you mess up again? It's OK. You can start over with God as many times as needed

"FINISH WELL"

by: author unknown

2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Enduring hardships is when Christ gets the glory. Remember what you have learned in growing up, and from others. The Holy Spirit will help you if He has something to work with. Feed on the Living Word which is All Scripture given by inspiration of God ...2 Timothy 3:16

These writers' minds were led by the Spirit of God as to what to write, and maybe they didn't understand it but penned it down for us.

1. The Word teaches us 2. The Word corrects us 3. The Word disciplines

The Word - "breathed out by God" the Bible is Alive! No other book in the world is like it! It equips you with strength and gives you a "Living Hope" It teaches you, but if you are not open to what God says, then you

cannot learn. You must build yourself up. You can have the Mind of Christ - it's the Bible. It is all there, it is complete. Nothing to add or take away.

“ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH”

by: Rev. Adam Devine

As the leaves begin to turn and crisp nights send chills down my spine, I can't help but think back to those warm summer evenings when the sun was still above the horizon well after the clock struck 8pm drawing me to sit outside and watch the stars as they slowly began to speckle across the darkening sky. Those warm summer evenings that brought laughter and joy filling the air as I sat around a campfire with my family and friends. Yep! I miss those warm summer evenings.

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about the times we shared around the campfire on the church lawn. Every Tuesday from Memorial Day through Labor Day we gathered around the campfire and enjoyed a time of fellowship and worship. As we sang praises to God out in his creation, I cherish the sounds of our voices which are in my ear's memory. We sang as the Amish drove their horse drawn buggies around the church with the horses hooves clipping and clapping along seemingly joining in with our worship. As cars drove by the church, we sang and people would stare in wonderment. We smiled and waved hoping they would be intrigued enough to stop and join us around the campfire. We prayed, sharing in each others struggles, worries, fears, joys, and praises. Closing our eyes to pray heightened our awareness of He who created the breezes on our faces and warmth on our backs. We learned so many wonderful lessons from God's Word to apply to our lives. It was truly an amazing time around the campfire! I am already looking forward to next summer and creating more memories together.



I want to thank all who joined us this summer at Campfire Church and I pray it was as much of a blessing to you as it was us! I pray that lessons we learned are still being applied to your lives today and that this time together is the start of a spark in each us to get outside the church walls and share God with this lost and broken world.

Please take time to enjoy the way God paints our landscapes with the fall foliage, white winter snow, and spring flowers, knowing that with each day that passes we are another day closer to once again joining together around the campfire for Campfire Church. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and plan to join us next summer for another great time in the presence of the Lord as we worship in his creation.

May God Bless You All!

Rev. Adam Devine and family



