

LESSON #28

"ATTENDANCE"

TEXTS: Acts 4:31; Acts 11:26; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 5:4; Acts 12:12; 1 Corinthians 14:23, 26

INTRODUCTION

God has always been concerned with the assembling of His people together for worship and fellowship. In every age He has commanded it. It is not only Right to assemble, it is a sin to fail to do so.

Worship on the first day of the week is commanded, but the place, the hour, the order of worship and many other details necessary to the worship are not specified. In order for a congregation to assemble, these decisions must be agreed upon.

God knew that we would need these assemblies. God intends that **WORSHIP** give to us indirect benefits of increasing our knowledge, developing our character, and stimulating our zeal.

REASONS FOR ATTENDING REGULARLY

1. We show our love for the Lord. John 14:15
2. We grow into mature Christians by desiring the sincere milk of the Word.
3. Faithful attendance protects us against apostasy.
4. Fellowship of other Christians.
5. Lord's Supper
6. When we attend all the services of the church, we are submitting ourselves to the elders who have the rule over us and are to feed us. When the spiritual meal is prepared and we don't come to receive it,
HOW CAN WE GROW?
7. When Christians move into a new community they should immediately locate the Church and identify themselves with it. It is each Christian's duty to work and serve under the oversight of the elders of a local congregation.

WHEN YOU WILLFULLY MISS A CHURCH SERVICE!!!

1. You signify that God and Christ are not first in your life. Matthew 6:33
2. You indicate that you do not put a premium upon Christian fellowship with your brethren.
3. You disappoint God, Christ, the elders and other brethren.
4. You set a bad example.
5. You deprive yourself of needed knowledge.
6. You manifest a spirit of indifference.
7. You place the security of your own soul in jeopardy and carelessly neglect the spiritual things that guard against the road that leads to apostasy.

Why would anyone willfully miss the services? A LETTER TO GOD

Dear God,

I am sorry you made Sunday when you did. You see, it is like this, we could attend more regularly if Your day came some other time. You have chosen a day that comes at the end of a hard week, and we are tired out. Not only that, but it is the day following Saturday night. Saturday evening, You know, is one time we should enjoy ourselves, so we go to a movie or a party; and often it is after midnight when we reach home.

It is almost impossible to get up on Sunday morning. You have chosen the very day we want to sleep late, and it makes it mighty hard to get the children off to Sunday School, especially when they have it so early. Then there are dishes to wash, and we always have some things we have to wash out. I mean no disrespect, dear God, but You must realize You have picked out the wrong day and the very day on which we have the biggest dinner. Not only that, but the church has fixed the hour of worship at the very time we must be preparing dinner. Then, too, You must think of Henry. He is cooped up in that office all week, and on Sunday morning is the only time he has to tinker with the car and mow the lawn. When he gets into his old clothes and his hands are greasy, you expect him to be able to get to church.

I am telling You these things, dear God, because I want You to get our viewpoint. It is not our fault that we are not able to get to church on Sunday morning. We would like to go, and we know we should go and need to go. But it must be clear to You that the real reason we cannot go is because You have chosen the wrong day ...

A LETTER FROM PREACHER JONES

"Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty poor. I don't guess I should complain because I had a bunch of sick members and when you add to that all my shut-ins, we don't have a lot of pew fillers. So I went ahead and preached to what I had. Only one thing was the echo in the near empty church building hurt my ears. My madam said I needed to get out and ride a while and let the fresh air clear my head. It made me feel right good inside. What I saw made me rejoice! I saw 'miracle' after 'miracle.'

"Old brother Smith, who had been deathly ill that very morning had recovered and was riding down the highway with his fishing pole. Nothing but a miracle could have rescued him from the jaws of death in such a short time.

"Now there was Rufe's brother. Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in such a bad shape that they were afraid an operation would be necessary. Well, we remembered him in our prayers, and low and behold, at 2-00 there he stood at the driving range hitting golf balls; if that wasn't quick recovery, I don't know what is.

"All told, about twenty sick folks had aroused and were taking nourishment in one form or another. But, what really made me happy was to see many of my shut-ins out riding and enjoying the world. Brother Smith's dad, who doesn't attend church because he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get out of the house, was in town shopping. Ellie Jones' sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys, stood in line two hours to get into the show. It was about "The 14iracle Worker." I thought it was right appropriate, seeing how a 'miracle' had happened to her.

"Yes sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I saw. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my sick folks being healed and my shut-ins set free. I just hope they don't overdo themselves before next Sunday and have a relapse. I gotta go now and play with my smallest child. He is going to be the farmer and I'm going to be the goat. Tin cans will be easy to eat after what I've swallowed."

WHY GO TO EVERY SERVICE

1. To prove my gratitude and love.
2. I am made stronger.
3. Christ said He would be there. Matthew 18:20
4. God wants the church to grow.
5. To set a good example.
6. To abound in the work of the Lord.
7. I love being with my family.