

## OFF OUR PEWS AND INTO OUR WORLD

What would it be like if you called 911 because your house is on fire, and the response came back, "Well, right now the firemen are in a training class, so they cannot come to put out your fire?" You would probably respond, "Well, I cannot wait until class is over. When will it be over?", and the response is, "Well, that is hard to say. It is up to each fireman as to when he or she feels they are ready to go out and fight fires. If we do not get to your fire we apologize, but we hope to put out some fires someday. Meanwhile, we have some pretty exciting classes if you would like to attend."

It sounds funny, but you know that I have something up my sleeve in sharing this illustration. You see, this is the way many Christians operate. Their church has some really good worship services where they get some good training and some inspiring messages about how we all need to get involved in rescuing people from the fires of hell, and we say "Amen." Meanwhile there are fires all around us that represent the need for a Christian to use his or her God given spiritual gifts in order to put the fires out. If you are a Christian, your responsibility is not to warm a pew, but to fight against Satan.

All of the benefits of Christianity are free, such as eternal life. It is an equal opportunity faith for all races and sexes. Jesus died for the entire world, and has made his salvation available to anyone who wants it, but it does not stop there. Christianity offers purpose and goals for your life here on earth until the time comes when we go to heaven. It also has purpose for the lives of your friends and people we encounter every day. It is a faith that includes involvement. God gives us special abilities or gifts that help us take our faith and use it to help others. The people that need us may already be Christians, or they may be people who need to know about Jesus.

You may have had the misconception that all of this is the work of the preacher. This is not true according to the Bible. Christianity is a faith in which all believers are ministers. We call this the ministry of all believers.

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