

WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT ATTENDING EVERY WORSHIP SERVICE?

Elders and preachers alike seem to harp upon faithful attendance. They stress the importance of attending, not just one service every now and then, not even one every week, but every assembly of the church. What is so important about such faithful attendance?

First, it is important because one is disobeying God when they fail to do so. The Hebrew writer stated, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..." (Heb. 10:25). He goes on to reveal the end result of such willful sin..."For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27). I'm not saying you can't get to heaven if you forsake the assembling of the saints together, but the Lord did! What could be more important than that?

Secondly, the purpose of the assembly makes it extremely important. We gather together to worship God! God desires His children to worship Him and to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). One of the highlights of the weekly worship is the opportunity to gather around the Lord's table and take part in a memorial for the Son of God, whom God sent and who willingly came and sacrificed His life, shedding His blood on Calvary's cross for our salvation (I Cor. 11:23-26). We "...offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Heb. 13:15); "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:19-21).

Thirdly, we exhort, encourage and build up, not only ourselves but the rest of the brethren as well. The Hebrew writer said, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another..." (Heb. 10:24-25).

Other aspects of the worship that are also extremely important can be cited, but these are sufficient for any who honestly want to know what is so important about faithful attendance.

TAKING TURNS

There is a tender story about an ailing mother who was resting in her bed when her nine-year-old daughter walked in. The daughter quietly unfolded a blanket and tucked it around her.

You know, the mother said, "It hasn't been that long since I was tucking you in, and now here you are covering me up." The little girl smiled, kissed her on the cheek, whispered, "We take turns", and skipped out of the room.

The little girl, with innocence and insight, stated a truth for our time. We take turns in the family of God when we love each other, serve each other, and encourage each other.

Let's not miss the opportunities. Let's not let them slip by. Let's keep our eyes and hearts open. Let's remember: we take turns.

(author unknown--copied from Bussell Banner)

YES YOU ARE!

"Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him" (Gen. 4:8). Many years later the apostle John wrote, "And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (I John 3:12). When God questioned Cain about where his brother was, Cain responded by saying, "I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). Though the answer is not given in a one word answer in that text, the one word that would answer Cain's question is "YES".

The apostle Paul wrote, "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (I Cor. 12:25-26). To the Roman brethren, Paul wrote, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep". The apostle John had preceded that statement about the sin of Cain by saying, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother" (I John 3:11-12). Peter wrote, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (I Peter 1:22). We are family (Eph. 3:15). "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

Robert