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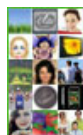
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WHEN WE MISS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Gary Colley

It is common to look at the attendance figures of most congregations and find that the Wednesday night attendance figures to be greatly below those for the worship hour on Sunday morning. Sometimes the total attending on Wednesday night is one-half the Sunday morning figure.

Those who cause this difference by deliberately forsaking the Wednesday evening Bible classes are sounding forth a message to God and to others. Let us look at some of the things we proclaim when we forsake the Wednesday night Bible study.

FIRST, one is saying that he does not need spiritual food. The Bible contains the necessary ingredients for one's spiritual growth (I Peter 2:2). Every Wednesday night, some of those spiritual delicacies are set forth for those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Those who remain at home during spiritual feast act as though they do not need this nutrition for their souls. At the present these individuals may not be aware of it but they are dying spiritually. One who does not eat in the physical realm will soon cease to be. This is also true in the realm of spiritual things.

SECOND, those who forsake the Wednesday night services are saying with clarity that there are some things more important

than gathering with God's people for study and meditation upon God's Word. Some of the "more important" things are television programs, the newspaper, homework and the garden. A continuation in such a course will cause many people, even your brothers and sisters in Christ, to wonder whether you have been raised with Christ. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1, 2).

THIRD, those who remain at home on Wednesday nights are also stating that Bible study is boring and dull. It is amazing that one could call something more precious than gold (Psalms 19:10) dull and boring. It is beyond comprehension that the Book containing God's mind (I Corinthians 2:9-13) could be thought of as dry and uninteresting. It is astounding that the map which will direct us to the Heavenly abode with the Almighty and His Son (Matthew 7:21) can be said to be stale and humdrum. Yet that is what some who forsake Wednesday night are saying.

FINALLY, those who forsake Wednesday night are saying with certainty that obeying God's commands is not important. Hebrews 10:25 commands that one not forsake the assemblies of the saints. Those who forsake the midweek assembly undoubtedly think the command is not important. Could they be mistaken? "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

We urge all of those who forsake the Wednesday night gathering of the saints to change their ways. Make sure to attend in order to receive the spiritual food which is offered. There is nothing more important. Upon attending regularly, you will find that it is refreshing and enjoyable; and you will obey God in the process.

Better Off
Walter S. Wendt

A man was making fun of one of his friends, a sincere Christian. He stated: "You Christians think that you are better than anyone else." To which the Christian replied: "Not better, but better off."

How true. To awaken every morning knowing that we have a Savior who has promised to be with us always even to the end of the world (Matt. 28:20), and to know every evening when we invite sweet sleep to erase the scars of another day, that our

Savior through His suffering, death, and resurrection has restored us to being true children of God, is indeed a blessing for which there is no measurement, but reason for giving the Lord continual thanks (Col. 3:17b).

To be a child of God is to be saved, to be a Christian. "What must I do to be saved?" is the question that was posed long ago to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30), and has been asked untold millions of times since. Perhaps you have asked yourself the very same question. The correct answer to this vital question will not be found in a catechism, prayer book or creed book. Those are all written by fallible human beings and each give conflicting answers. Only by looking into the New Testament can we find God's answer to that all-important question.

The Bible tells us that to become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Word of God (John 8:45; Romans 10:17)
Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 8:24)
Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3, 5; II Peter 3:9)
Confess Jesus is the Christ (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37)
Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
Live faithfully everyday (Matthew 10:22)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. You can read about it in the Bible (Romans 16:16).
 2. It has no creed but Christ and binds no name on its members but the divine name (Acts 11:26).
 3. It speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent (I Peter 4:11).
 4. It exalts Christ as the only head of the church (Ephesians 1:22).
 5. We plead for the unity of all believers in Christ (John 17:20, 21; I Corinthians 1:10).
 6. It is not a denomination, nor a group of denominations, but simply the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
 7. Its founder is Christ Himself (Matthew 16:18).
 8. Its aim - to save souls by the preaching of the gospel (Romans 1:16).
 9. Its acts of worship are patterned after the New Testament (John 4:24).
 10. It teaches that scriptural unity can be attained on all disputed doctrinal questions (I Corinthians 1:10).
-

Can you find YOUR church in the Bible? If you are interested in learning more about the church of Christ, we can help! We can send you either a Bible correspondence course or a series of

Bible lessons on DVD, both free of charge! If you live in the Nashville, TN area, maybe you'd prefer a free, no obligation in-home Bible study? If we can assist you in any way, please contact Michael Willey at mbwilley@yahoo.com.

WRONG WEAPON

A teacher was telling her class about the Christian's armor. After speaking of the breastplate of righteousness and the shield of faith, she asked, "Now Paul also says that we should carry a weapon, which is the word of God. Do you remember what he called the word of God?" Receiving no answer, she added, "It's something that cuts, something that is very sharp." Then one of the little fellows answered a vigorous, "I know, it's the axe of the Apostles."

GET TO WORK!

Bill Jackson (Deceased)

By God's own design, labor is an area for all to be involved in, and is most beneficial to man. Even in the paradise of the Garden, God provided labor for man, giving him the job of dressing and keeping it (Genesis 2:15). Summing up man's responding to God, Paul said he was to "...labor, working with his hands the thing which is good" (Ephesians 4:28). Man was not made for idleness, and that very thing - idleness - brought some in Thessalonica to the point where the congregation was going to have to discipline them (II Thessalonians 3). The blessing, then, of honest and continual labor!

That same principle applies, of course, in the kingdom. Time in the kingdom must be a time of labor, so that the promised rest is needed (Revelation 14:13). Let us mention an application or two in this regard, and notice the remedy when it comes to some ills. That remedy is, simply, GET TO WORK! We mention these:

- 1) Those with very little concept of the work of the congregation, and having very little interest in her functioning, and thus put forth very little effort, can correct all of these things by becoming faithful and active-GET TO WORK!
- 2) Those who find time only to make criticism of the church, its elders, its program of work, its preachers, etc., should simply get involved. GET TO WORK and then there will be very little time to engage in idle gossip and giving way to disgruntled feelings. Idleness carries some away into busybodying (II Thessalonians 3:11).
- 3) Those who spend their time on themselves, thinking about

themselves, and feeling sorry for themselves - those whose whole world revolves around "me, myself and I" - should pitch in and help in the Lord's work. GET TO WORK! and when one does that, he loses himself in the work of the kingdom, gets away from his selfishness, and thinks of others.

Yes, the blessing of labor! And the blessing, especially, of labor in the kingdom, wherein one knows (1) he is working in the most eternally important areas, (2) his labors are blessed by God, (3) he is blest in this life and has eternal blessings promised, and (4) his work is of spiritual benefit to others. For all of us the question, "Am I truly laboring in the kingdom of God?" If the answer is "No," then that explains why I have so much time on my hands and so much time for other things.

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

Rod Carroll

I believe the greatest reason behind the unhappiness and discouragement that many Christians feel relates to our failure of being busy saving the lost. When I am not doing what I am supposed to be doing I feel pretty low. If you want some good therapy, invite a friend you have been worrying about to attend your Bible class. You also know people who are no longer attending. Tell yourself today you are going to get serious about your faith and visit with them about their lost condition. This is soul-saving medicine. Call a friend to go with you, they could use a dose too! Are you going to spend an entire lifetime on the sideline of Christianity? Get into the game! Those who are aflame, enthused and excited about Jesus are those who are standing by His side battling Satan for the souls of men.

I exhort you to save yourself from the boredom and apathy from which so many church members have died.

You hold the key that can free yourself from spiritual death. Work! The night is coming when you cannot work. Death is serious; hell is serious; souls are serious. The only people who will be happy in this life and saved in eternity will be those who are serious about Jesus being their Master. Don't miss out on the abundant life you can have right now by serving Jesus.

The Good Tidings is an e-journal of New Testament Christianity sent free to interested individuals via email. Its primary purpose and goal in publication is to "preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:16); to teach those outside Christ about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to edify the faith of New Testament Christians. Subscribers are encouraged to assist us in this effort by forwarding The Good Tidings to all their email contacts and

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