

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Luke 4:16, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

Is regular Church attendance important? The world says, NO! With all the activities the world can supply and the demands of those activities, how can anyone expect us to enjoy the world and be at Church on a regular basis. The devil says, NO! With all the temptations of covetousness, pride, and arrogance, how can anyone expect us not to enjoy our life here on earth to the fullness. The flesh nature we all battle with says, NO! We deserve a day of lounging in our pajamas, doing nothing but sleeping and watching televised sports, how can anyone have enough energy to show up for Church every Sunday when there is so much to drain you mentally and physically during the week. But the Word of God teaches different. The Word of God makes it clear, in so many ways, that regular Church attendance is important for a child of grace to have a happy life of peace and fellowship with our Father in heaven. And I know you may be saying, 'Preacher, you've got a lot of convincing to do if you want me to believe this.' But I would like to offer the following in an effort to convince the reader that Regular Church Attendance is very important:

(1) Jesus attended public worship services on a regular basis. In the text previously cited, you will notice the word "custom". The word custom means that something is a usual practice or manner of your life. It was not unusual, or even a surprise to see Jesus Christ our Lord numbered with others in public worship on a weekly basis. Now, if the Lord, who was busier than us all, took time to join Himself in regular worship, isn't that enough of an example for us to be motivated to do the same.

(2) The Word of God commands it. In Hebrews 10:24-25 we read, "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: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The Apostle in these two verses, not only exhorts the reader to be at the House of God, but says if we fail to do so, we are "forsaking" our God called service.

(3) Our spiritual health requires it. If we are to enjoy good physical health, we will need to eat nutritious foods. Without a proper diet, our physical bodies will begin to fail. In like manner, our spiritual health requires a proper diet. In Jeremiah 3:15, we learn that one of the purposes of a pastor is to "feed you with knowledge and understanding." When Jesus Christ conversed with Peter in John 21:15-17, He commanded Peter to "feed" His lambs and sheep. The primary place the food is distributed to the lambs and sheep is at the House of God on Sunday morning when the Gospel is preached.

(4) Our testimony and profession depends on it. The children of God, through the Word of God and the gospel, are called upon to behave themselves in a godly manner. We are called upon to be the "salt" and "light" of the earth. But neither of these are independent. Both the "salt" and the "light" are dependent upon another to continue to have savour and shine as they should. Every light is dependent on an energy source, and "if the salt have lost his savour" (Luke 14:34-35), then "It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out." If we are to maintain a godly testimony in the Lord, we will need to show ourselves to be lovers of Jesus Christ.

(5) Our children and the youth of our day need a proper example (Titus 1:7, "pattern of good works"). When I observe the generation that now is, I can see how Bible reading, family prayer, and Church attendance has decreased in the household. There was a day, not too long ago, that a person who didn't believe in God, the Bible and going to Church was considered odd and unusual. Now, the world has changed. It becometh us, right now, to break this chain. I personally want to see the chain

of decline broken. I know I cannot control what everybody else does, but I can control what I do. I want my children to believe what I was taught about Church, and the only way to do that is to be a better example myself. Amen!

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