

IS CHURCH ATTENDANCE ESSENTIAL?

Text: Acts 2:1

INTRO: Strange as it may seem, it is not at all unusual for preachers to be asked, "Do I have to attend all the services?" This question is difficult to deal with, not because the Bible doesn't have anything to say that has bearing on the subject, but because it is so hard to understand why a truly converted intelligent church member would not want to attend all the services he possibly can within reason. It's not a matter of law--it is a matter of opportunity.

Tho I am convinced that the solution to the problem at hand is to find some way to convert all the church members to the Lord, I also believe that a Bible-centered question deserves a Bible answer, so we will consider what the Bible says that has bearing on our subject.

I. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO OBEYING THE BIBLE. Heb 10:25; 1 Cor 11:33

II. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD. Luke 4:16.

A. Note that the synagogue was not specifically commanded in

the O.T. but was established later in Israel's history to expedite God's commands for their study, etc., much like our Bible class arrangement of today.

B. Tho there was no express command to attend the synagogue services, for the devout Jews there did not need to be. They wanted to learn more about God's will & encourage one another in such efforts. Jesus did not have to be told to be about His Father's business. He already understood His obligations in that regard, LK 2:49.

III. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLES & THE EARLY CHURCH. Acts 20:7; 11:26; Heb 10:25; Acts 2:42

IV. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROPER SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN.

Acts 17:11; 1 Pet 2:2; Rom 10:17

How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (1 Cor 14:26).

V. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE LOCAL CHURCH.

READ I CORINTHIANS 12:13-27.

VI. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO BEING READY TO MEET CHRIST.

- A. We are obviously not ready to meet Him if we are unfaithful and unloyal.

Therefore you also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.
(MT 24:44)

Well done good & faithful servant... (MT 25:21).

NOTE: In 50 years, the average church will have had opportunity to have attended 2600 Sunday morning Bible classes, 2600 morning worship services, an equal number of Sunday evening services and Wednesday night sessions and 260 or more gospel meeting sessions. If we have intentionally & consistently stayed away from the vast majority of these opportunities, are we really confident that the Lord to address us as good & faithful servants?

- B. I doubt I've ever known a church member who would want to be home watching TV if the Lord should return during the Sunday evening worship hour.

VII. REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL TO A GOOD INFLUENCE. READ MATTHEW 5:13-16.

VIII. MOST CHURCH MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT
REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS A GOOD WORK.

We should be ready for every good work, Titus 3:1

IX. ALL THESE THINGS BEING TRUE, UNDER NORMAL CIR-
CUMSTANCES, REGULAR, FREQUENT ATTENDANCE
& PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP SERVICES IS ESSEN-
TIAL TO SUCCESSFUL CITIZENSHIP IN THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. Matt. 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:9

CONCLUSION: Somewhere a mother is trying to make up her mind whether to let a surgeon do an operation on her only child that may take her life. Somewhere a man whose son didn't come home last night is walking thru a door marked "City Morgue." Somewhere a wife whose marriage has lost its excitement is on a street corner flirting with a man she knows will destroy her fidelity. Somewhere a man is sitting on his bed toying with a pistol while his wife is shrieking at him from the top of the stairs to come up & explain his recent whereabouts. Somewhere a tired doctor is shaking his head and saying, "terminal cancer." And somewhere, a well-fed, well-dressed church member stayed at home, deciding against going to worship services, because, after all, he doesn't really have anything to be thankful for.

Springhill, LA, November 28, 1971

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, December 8, 1974

La Porte, TX, October 30, 1977

La Porte, TX, August 7, 1983

Exton, PA, December 18, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 10, 1993