

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 12

2021

Are You Attending Services Less?

Unfortunately, there are some brethren who are very sporadic when it comes to attending worship services. When they are approached about their irregular or random attendance, they are very quick to give a variety of excuses for their sporadic attendance.

So, perhaps those brethren who are choosing to attend services less need to...

Be Reminded Of The Purpose For Attending Worship Services.

You see, the Scriptures teach and command Christians to come together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). When we come together on the first day of the week to worship our God, we must do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We are to sing songs of praise to God (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), we are to pray (Acts 2:42), we are to teach and preach the doctrine of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9), we are to remember the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), and we are to cheerfully give back a portion of our means to the Lord, as

we have been prospered. (2 Corinthians 9:7). Knowing this, brethren, be one who obeys the commandments of God (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 22:14), and be one who stirs up love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Better Prepare Self For Worship Services.

It appears that some brethren are not making the proper preparations needed to regularly attend worship services. For instance, some may be staying up or out way too late on Saturday evening, which in return, causes them not to attend worship services on Sunday, because they claim to be too tired.

However, do you really think that the excuse of being too tired to attend worship service is acceptable to God? Think about that! You see, instead of making excuses for missing worship services, we need to be a people who take the Ezra approach, and we need to likewise prepare our heart's to seek the law of the Lord and to do it (Ezra 7:10). With that thought in mind, strive to make the proper preparations needed to regularly attend worship services, and always seek to serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2).

Be More Spiritually Minded.

Sadly, some of our brethren are regularly missing worship services because they do not have their priorities straight. For instance, some are choosing to engage in leisure activities on Sunday's, or some are constantly volunteering to work on Sunday's so they can receive double time pay, rather than choosing to worship and obey God.

However, my beloved brethren, we must always put God first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). We must not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2), and we need to be a people who are setting our minds on the things above rather than on the things on the earth (Colossians 3:2). Therefore, let's all strive to be more spiritually minded, and let's store up for ourselves treasure in heaven rather than on earth (Matthew 6:19-21).

Examine Thyself As To Whether You Are In The Faith.

In 2 Corinthians 13:5, the apostle Paul instructed the saints in Corinth to, "*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.*" He then goes onto say, "*Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified.*" Brethren, we all need to make, and take some time to examine ourselves as to whether we are truly in the faith.

Those who are known to frequently miss worship services, need to be doing some serious self-examining, and they need to be honest with themselves to see if they really do stand the test. The fact of the matter is, self, and a desire to please self, instead of the Lord our God, can often be one's greatest problem.

Possess A Greater Desire For Heaven.

Last, but certainly not least, maybe those who are attending services less need to possess a greater desire for heaven. You see, many will often say "I want to go to heaven," but unfortunately, their actions do not speak louder than their words. Therefore, don't just say you want

to go to heaven, but rather be like God's faithful people of old, and act like it (Hebrews 11:13-16). So, now I ask, how about you? Is pressing toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus the one thing that you do (Philippians 3:13-14)? If not, why not?

My brethren, it is understandable that there are, and will be certain circumstances that will come along that may prevent you from attending services. Along that line, I have heard, "do not be concerned about those who would be here if they could be, but rather be concerned about those who could be here, but choose not to be."

Now, think about that statement, and may each and every one of us always take advantage of every opportunity we have to come together to worship our one true living God.

✍ Brad Phillips

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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