

Basic (As quoted by
Instruction by brother John
Before Williamson in the
Leaving invitation last
Earth Wednesday.)

**Psalms 119:104 - 105 (NKJV) *Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*
¹⁰⁵ *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.***

“ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE LORD’S CHURCH WHICH MEETS AT 800 PERRY HILL ROAD?”

Please, do not dismiss this question in an offhand way. For some, what I am about to say is “old hat”, but for others, it may be something to which they have never given much thought.

When one is baptized scripturally (immersed in water, after they have truly believed and confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and have repented of sins [changed their mind about engaging in sinful acts and determining they will cease that kind of conduct] , because they want to obey Jesus). They are then added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47). We, in an accommodative manner, often, call this the “Universal or World Wide church”, because it contains all who have been scripturally baptized. This is not the “Christians in every denomination” doctrine or theory. Please, read on. This church consists of all who

have become simply New Testament Christians and who realize they cannot condone, encourage or abet any man or organization (church) that does not believe and practice only God authorized teaching and activity. They will not “join” any human religious body that professes to be the Lord’s church, but to which He will proclaim, “....*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*” (Matthew 7:23)

Now, please read this. There are some who never learn beyond the above consideration, and claim for themselves the status of “floating membership”, or “Christians at large”, and therefore, will not become a member of a local church of the Lord. The Bible does not describe or authorize this circumstance. One of the great problems with this proposition is that God does not make any organizational provisions for universal church worship and work. He does give us instructions for the organization of a local church in which we can participate for communal worship and work. It is under the oversight of elders who are charged with

the weighty responsibility of directing in proper scriptural worship and work. Therefore, Christians must “join” themselves to the Lord’s church in their community of residence (cf. Acts 9:26-28).

However, and this is an important however. Just because you attend irregularly, or regularly, or just because your name is in the local directory, does not mean you are a member at Perry Hill Road. (Of course, only the Lord keeps an accurate roll.) Therefore, if you have been “out of duty”, meaning, if you have been unfaithful to the Lord and the Lord’s church, you need to repent! You need to let the Lord, the elders and the church know you have changed, and want to be a “faithful Christian”, and you wish to prepare yourself to go to heaven. There will be no “slipping into heaven”, and, therefore, no “slipping back into church” should be tolerated. If you are in this category, do not let pride or obstinacy prevent you from the right action. Come before the church, and seek restoration by repenting and asking for forgiveness, and prayers.

Here is another important factor concerning your responsibility as a member at Perry Hill Road. You need to “give” in a cheerful and determined manner of your monetary prosperity into the “local collection”. Some young people who earn money, and even some young married people, seem to overlook this responsibility. The Lord knows if your budget is tight. He, also, knows if you are not giving Him first place. Sometimes members support preachers or works in other places. I see no problem with this, if the person or cause is acceptable to the Lord. I do see a problem, if their contribution to the local church suffers because of outside “giving”. It seems to me that, if one withholds their participation in local work, they may be in rebellion against the elders and the work they are trying to direct the local church in doing. Ask, “Lord, is it I” ? Be a faithful, participating member at Perry Hill Road. CAB