

“I THINK I WILL STOP GOING TO SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES! “

After all, I am already a “faithful” Christian, and I do not need all that much “edifying” stuff anymore. Besides, do you realize how far I have to drive to get there? The price of gas is not getting any cheaper, you know? If I just do not show up a few times, I think I will “get out of the habit” of going, and then I will not much feel guilty when I do not go! At least, I know, I have heard others say they were just “not in the habit” of going more than Sunday morning! Oh! I know there are some who show up every time the “doors are open”, but I, also, know that some of them are “bigger hypocrites” than I will be for just not showing up.

You say, I have to be here because I am an elder, well you just show me the scripture that says that! Oh, I see! It is because I am supposed to be an example! Well, so should you, brother! I guess you forgot that Jesus said, ***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*** (Matt 5:16 NKJV), or that Paul wrote to Christians at Thessalonica and told them, ***“You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.”*** (1 Thess. 1:7 NASB) UH HUH !! I guess; I got you there. So- - - , what is “good for the goose, is good for the gander”.

Godly elders and preachers have anguished through the years trying to solve the problem created because of the poor attendance at the evening services, by some of the local members including attendance at our own “Gospel Meetings”. (For instance, the Lord and visitors see an obvious lack of interest in spiritual matters and eternal destiny on the part of many of us.) We have run the “gamut” of seeking to apply, or unfortunately sometimes, misapply, such pertinent and needed passages as: Heb. 10:25, Matt. 18:20, 1 Cor. 11: 33, 1 Cor. 14:23, etc., often with very little or no improvement in evidence. (I have heard of some local churches where the Sunday and Wednesday evening services were numerically about the same as the Sunday morning. Thank the Lord for these!) Elders and preachers have sought to plead, beg, cajole, wheedle, threaten (?) and use “gimmicks” such as the first two paragraphs of this article in efforts to get all members to realize the benefit and the need to assemble as regularly as they possibly can.

However, it may be that we have “put the cart before the horse” (since I have already used several old-fashioned idioms). There is an account that has made the round of bulletins many times about an elder being asked by a member why he had to “attend every service”. The elder’s response is a classic one. He said, “I never knew a ‘faithful’ Christian who wanted to do otherwise”. Therein, lies the answer to the problem. If we would be truly convinced (converted) of and to the fact that God is, and that He means what He says, surely we

would have no trouble understanding where our priorities must lie. Jesus said, **“... *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, ...*”** (Matt, 6:33 NASB) At another time He said, **“... ‘*YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.*’** (Matt. 22:37) *Isaiah gave a telling bit of advice when he wrote, “Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.”* (Isa. 55:6) If we have really put on the Lord (Gal. 3:27), we will meet with Him and His children every time we are able. I feel sure that you must and will agree this is the real crux of the “problem” concerning the lack of “faithful” attendance. Please correct the “problem” for the sake of your own soul. And be thou “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10)

THEREFORE, IF THE LORD GRANTS STRENGTH, I DO NOT PLAN TO STOP! cab

PostScript to “I think I will stop...”

If, after reading the article, one is still inclined to say, “I do not think you have to attend more that once a week and that is on the Lord’s Day to take the Lord’s Supper, then I say, “You have surely missed the point of the article”. The article deals more with “want to” rather than “have to”. If we do not “want to”, how will we cause joy in heaven? (Luke 15:10, Rev. 7:13-17) And how will we be able to show the same zeal as the early Christians? ***“Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, ...”*** (Acts 2:46) If we all “want to”, it will be amazing what the collective “can do”! CAB