

# Attendance

## INTRODUCTION:

From beginning of Jewish dispensation, God has commanded His people to assemble together to worship and learn of Him.

- (1) The tabernacle (tent of meeting) and the temple became the center of the Jews' religion.
- (2) One of the first resolutions made by the Jews when they returned to their land after captivity related to such assemblies. (Jeh. 10:39)
- (3) If even Jesus, the Son of God, saw the need of regular public worship, surely those who have committed themselves to "walk even as He walked" should recognize that same need. (Luke 4:16)
- (4) While there is value and benefit to be derived from private worship, God in the New Covenant has ordained regular public worship for our spiritual well being.
- (5) Faithfulness to God and His Word has always been in direct ratio to faithfulness to His appointed assemblies.

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH?

- A. Because I need the spiritual food offered.
1. I should have a compelling desire for such food.
    - (a) I Peter 2:2,3
    - (b) Matt. 4:4
    - (c) Matt. 5:6 (Ps. 119:172 Rom. 1:16,17)
  2. The exceeding value of God's Word seen in:  
Ps. 119:14, 16, 24, 72, 97-105, 128, 130, 131, 165
  3. This word can save my soul. Jas. 1:21
  4. This word can enrich my life. Col. 1:9-11
  5. This word can keep me from falling.  
II Pet. 1:5,11; 2:20-22; Matt. 13:20-23
  6. This word is my weapon against temptation.  
Ps. 119:11; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10
  7. This word can give me victory over the world.  
I Jn. 5:4; Rom. 10:17
  8. This word will help me to GROW. Heb. 6:1; II Pet. 3:18

In view of these facts, I should naturally want to be at every service where this wonderful Word is preached or taught.

- B. Because I want to cooperate with and be in subjection to those who watch for my soul.
1. To the elders God has given this fearful responsibility. Heb. 13:17
  2. They are to "feed" (pastor, shepherd) the flock. Acts 20:28
    - (a) To fulfill that responsibility they must provide regular and balanced feeding.  
Heb. 5:12-14
    - (b) Just as parents are concerned when their children fail to eat as they should, elders are concern over members who forsake and neglect these feeding periods.
- C. Because God has commanded me not to forsake them
1. Heb 10:19-32
    - (a) The seriousness of this sin can be seen in the context.

D. Because I owe it to my brethren in the local congregation.

1. God's plan for the building up of the Body of Christ calls for ACTIVE PARTICIPATION upon the part of every member. Eph. 4:11-16

(a) The congregation is made up of individual members.

(1) The activity of the church depends upon the activity of the members.

(2) The strength of the church depends upon the strength of the members.

(3) Diligence and steadfastness on my part will strengthen the local congregation. Heb. 11:6, I Cor. 15:58

2. The church is a Fellowship I Jn. 1:2,3

(a) Word means "joint participation" or "partnership."

(b) I have fellowship with the local congregation to the extent that I jointly participate in every service and work it undertakes. Acts 2:42

3. The church is an army Eph. 6:11-18

(a) A.W.O.L.'s (Absent Without Official Leave) and deserters weaken any army and its cause.

E. Because I owe it to those I might influence. Matt 5:13,14; Rom. 14:7,13

1. To sell the world on the vitality and value of Christianity, we must convince them that we are "sold" on it.

### IS IT A SIN IF I MISS SERVICES?

A. Sin is a transgression of the law. I Jn. 3:4

B. To absent yourself from the Lord's day assemblies usually involves at least three sins:

1. Forsaking assembly. Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7

2. Forsaking Lord's Supper. I Cor. 11; Acts 20:7

3. Neglecting giving. I Cor. 16:2

C. The question to be asked of any service or class is, "Is it a good work?"

1. If the answer is "yes", consider these Scriptures:

Titus 2:14; 3:1; Jas. 4:17

D. The question asked usually reflects a wrong attitude, the attitude of wanting to do only those things positively required or trying to ascertain the bare minimum of service that we can render and still get by.

E. Actually, if my attitude is right, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

1. David's attitude worthy of imitation. Ps. 122:1; 84:10; 27:4

2. While faithful attendance is a duty imposed by God's law, we should count it rather a privilege and blessing.

- If we love the Lord and want to be with Him; Matt. 18:20
- If we love our brethren and want to be with them; I Pet. 1:22
- If we are truly "hungering and thirsting" for God's Word, Matt. 5:6
- We will be "Seeking first His Kingdom", Matt. 6:33
- We will present at every service we are not providentially hindered from attending.