

# Why I Attend Every Service Of The Church

No. 145

## Introduction.

- I. In recent years there has been a great deal of discussion concerning church attendance. Many people have belittled church attendance and denied its importance saying it is for those who have nothing else better to do. In contrast to this attitude there are others who have stressed the importance of faithful church attendance and have given some convincing, significant reasons for attending church services.
- II. For about 5 or 6 years after I became a Christian I attended mostly Sunday morning Bible study and the Sunday A.M. service. I loved the Lord, but did not understand or the importance of being at all the services. After much thought and study and prayer, I decided to attend every service of the church. I made this decision for a number of reasons. Each of the reasons is based on the word of God.

### I. **Jesus Is There** - I attend every service of the church because Jesus is there. (Matt. 18:20).

- A. Jesus has never forsaken an assembly. He is always present. I want to be like Him and meet with Him.
- B. If it were announced that Jesus was going to be here in the flesh tonight, I am sure everyone of us would be here. We would completely fill all the seats of this auditorium. We would have seats in the aisles and the foyer would be full. I do not expect to see the Lord clothed in human flesh tonight, but I do believe He will be present in spirit as He is this morning. If we had a greater realization of this fact, it would motivate us to be more faithful in our attendance and would bring about a reformation in our worship.

1. **The story is told about some Christians who met for worship one Sunday.** As the worship service was about to begin another person came inside and slipped into a vacant seat. Immediately the congregation recognized Him as the Lord. When the song leader rose and the worship began, the **singing** was more fervent and more earnest than it had been before. When the **prayer** was led it was a prayer to be remembered a lifetime. The **sermon**, too, had fervor and earnestness that it seldom, if ever, had had before. When the **Lord's supper** was served, there was absolute silence and a period of deep meditation. When the **collection** plates were passed, there was much greater generosity than usual. Everything was different and better that day.

2. This did not happen physically, but whether it happened physically or not of great importance. It does happen spiritually every time Christians meet to worship God. The omnipresent Christ is our midst.

### II. **The Lord Expects Me To Be There** - I attend every service of the church because the Lord expects me to be there.

A. The Lord spoke to the multitude about food, clothing and shelter. He knew these things are important, but the Lord instructed them to seek God's kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33).

1. God's kingdom must be first even before seeking food, clothing and shelter.

2. Since the kingdom of God and the church are the same, it means the church must be first in our lives.

### B. **The Hebrew writer wrote.** (Heb. 10:24-27).

1. The Hebrew writer warns that if we wilfully continue to forsake the assembly after we have received the knowledge of truth, we are lost.

2. This should serve as a warning to those who are inclined to treat the assembly lightly. It is a very serious thing to forsake the assembly. Any time a Christian misses the assembly without providential reason such as sickness, he puts his soul in jeopardy. This is not only true of Sunday morning service, but it is true of every service of the church.
3. Someone has written these provocative lines that every Christian needs to keep in mind

<p>I love the church Jesus built And I know that it is right. I go there on Sunday morning, But not on Sunday night.</p> <p>I love to sing the songs of God; Such worship must be right. This I do on Sunday morning, But not on Sunday night.</p> <p>God bless our preacher too, And give him power and might To put the sinner in his place- I won't be there Sunday night.</p> <p>I love to hear the gospel too; It gives me pure delight. I hear it Sunday morning, But not on Sunday night.</p>	<p>I'd go thru rain and sleet and snow, Do anything that's right, To be at church on Sunday morning, But not on Sunday night.</p> <p>I know I need more strength To keep me in the fight; For help I come on Sunday morning, But not on Sunday night.</p> <p>Yes, we all must die- I hope I'll be doing right, So may I die on Sunday morning And not on Sunday night.</p> <p><b>Where would Jesus find you if he were to come tonight?</b></p>
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**III. I Want To Be There** - I attend every service of the church because I want to be there.

- A. I love the Lord and enjoy worshiping Him. I would attend worship even if there were not a commandment for me to be there.
  1. For this reason it is not difficult for me to get up Sunday morning though I am sometimes tired and come to worship.
  2. For this reason it is not difficult for me to come to church Sunday night and Wednesday night even though many times I am exhausted and would enjoy staying home and watching T.V. or doing something else.
- B. The Lord expects our worship and obedience to be prompted by love. (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3; 2 Jn. 6).
  1. Love is what motivated the early Christians to faithfully attend worship services. It not only motivated them to attend on Sunday, but every day of the week. (Acts 2:46; 5:42).
  2. If we love the Lord, this love will motivate us to be faithful to all the services of the church. We will not ask, "Do I have to attend Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. We will look forward with great anticipation to these opportunities to praise God and His beloved Son.
  3. We should joyfully exclaim. (Psa. 122:1).

**IV. Makes Me A Stronger Christian** - I attend every service of the church because it makes me a stronger

Christian.

A. I am not nearly **as strong in the faith** as I would like to be.

1. The time I spend in prayer, in song, in partaking of the Lord's supper and studying God's word increases my faith and encourages me to be a better and stronger Christian.
2. The time I spend with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, increases my faith and encourages me to be a better and stronger Christian.

B. **I have never known or met a strong, dynamic Christian** who did not attend worship services regularly.

1. There is something about worship that enables one to be strong in the faith. God imparts strength to us.
2. We also impart strength to one another. (Heb. 10:24).

C. **There is great danger in forsaking the assembly.**

1. A **branch** removed from a tree will soon wilt and die.
2. A **fish** taken out of the water will twist and struggle and then weaken and finally die.
3. The **Christian** who frequently misses the assembly will grow weak and often indifferent and may eventually die.

V. **Makes My Family Happier** - I attend every service of the church because it makes my family happier.

A. Families who attend church services regularly, almost without exception, are **happy families**. Their common faith in God unites them in love and purpose. Their common faith puts them on the path to heaven. Their common faith guides them in the commandments and principles that make for the abundant life.

B. Families who stay away from God are nearly always **fussing and fighting**.

C. **Someone has said**, "The first step to a happy family is the church step."

VI. **Set A Good Example** - I attend every service of the church because I want to set a good example. (Matt. 5:16; 18:6; 1 Cor. 10:32).

A. I want to set a **good example for my friends and neighbors**. I know they are constantly watching me. If I stay at home, it will lead them astray. They will conclude that the church does not mean much to me; thus, why should ever go.

B. I also want to set a **good example for my children and grandchildren**. I do not want to do anything that might lead them astray. If the church does not mean much to me, how can I ever expect it to mean much to them?

1. On various occasions I have heard **little ones say**, "Daddy didn't come with me again this morning." About **38 years ago** when I was preaching in Liberal, Kansas, I can vividly remember a little girl who came up to me almost every Sunday morning and say, "Daddy didn't come with me again this morning." She spoke those words with a broken heart. She spoke those words without realizing the effect her daddy's lack of

attendance would have on her. After a time she stopped attending Bible study and church services.

2. When I hear these words it reminds me of the words of this poem.

<p>“Daddy, let’s go to church today.” “No, Son, too many things to do; I don’t have any time to pray I’ve got to make a living for you.”</p> <p>So they boy ran off down the street, As little innocent boys will do, Not thinking of his wayward feet, Nor of what they might lead him to do.</p>	<p>So now, the boy, a grown-up lad, His wayward feet gone astray, Won’t listen to the voice of dad, Who one time, had not time to pray.</p> <p>Dad has now grown old and gray, And is almost totally blind; Said, “Come, Son, let’s kneel and pray.” “No, Dad, too many things on my mind.”</p>
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VII. **Found Faithful In The Last Day** - I attend every service of the church because I want to be found faithful in the last day.

A. I want to hear him say. (Matt. 25:21).

B. I know if I do not care enough to be in His presence here that God will not care to have me in His presence in the heavenly city.

C. He will say. (Matt. 25:41).

**Conclusion.**

I. These are the reasons why I attend every service of the church.

II. If you are not already doing so, I pray these reasons will motivate you to attend every service. What a privilege, what a blessing it is to worship God and be His children.

III. **There are some here today who are not Christians.** We pray that you will make Christ your Savior today, Christ will become your Savior if you will repent and come confessing your faith in Christ and then be baptized. Come as we stand and sing.