

## JUST BECAUSE YOU GO TO CHURCH DOESN'T MEAN... Continued

1. **JUST BECAUSE YOU GO TO CHURCH DOESN'T MEAN YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN.**
2. **JUST BECAUSE YOU GO TO CHURCH DOESN'T MEAN YOUR CHILDREN WILL GROW UP TO BE CHRISTIANS.**

Some Christian parents deceive themselves into believing this. They think that they've done their job by putting the kids in the car and bringing them with them to services every week. Parents, we need to understand that it is not the job of the church to supply our children with everything they need in the area of religion. Yes, it is true that regularly bringing one's children to the services of the church will certainly help, but a couple hours a week is not sufficient for fully developing children spiritually. Whose responsibility is it to ensure that children get a good religious education? Whose job is it to make sure that children are learning God's word, being taught how to pray, and being instructed in how to live righteously every day? It is the parents' job! And God will hold parents accountable – not the church – for the spiritual development of children. Consider Ephesians 6:4 – “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Parents should bring their children to worship with them, but they must also take an active role in the home in helping their children develop spiritually.

I strongly recommend that every family make some time each day to have a devotional. This is a time to read Scriptures together. It is a time to talk about the Bible and learn. It is a time to share in prayer together. It could also be a great time to sing a song or two to the Lord. Even if you don't have children, or if you don't have children who are in the house anymore, you could still benefit greatly from having a daily devotional with your spouse. When we study our Old Testaments, it is easy to see that God wanted His people to have daily devotionals – if you want to call them that. Listen to what was written in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Every opportunity was to be used to teach children about God and the ways of righteousness. Are we using such opportunities today or are we depending upon the services of the church to work the impossible in the lives of our children?

3. **JUST BECAUSE YOU GO TO CHURCH DOESN'T MEAN YOUR LIFE ON EARTH WILL BE EASY OR FREE OF DIFFICULTIES.**

Some fantasize that if they go to church then God owes them a favor and will prevent anything bad from happening to them. These are the type of people who blame God when something bad happens. They lose faith easily (cf. Matt. 13:20,21) and don't realize that trials and struggles can be beneficial for followers of Christ. James 1:2,3 teaches – "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Take a minute and think about it logically: If going to church meant that life would be free of problems, wouldn't everybody go to church. Absolutely they would! If it was a guarantee, every human would give up an hour or two a week for smooth sailing the other 160 some hours. But that is not the purpose for assembling together with Christians. God wants people to come to church to worship, encourage others, build their faith, and learn about Him and His will. He does not want people coming to church trying to acquire good luck or a life without adversity. Going to church is not supposed to be a selfish act but a selfless one. It is probably fair to say that living as a Christian may (and probably will) make your life even more difficult! Why? Because Satan is going to do his best to get you back out into the world living in sin. Satan will try extra hard to make new Christians miserable (one way or another) in hopes of tempting them to forsake God and the way of righteousness. This is exactly what Satan expected to happen in Job's case, but Satan underestimated Job's strength of faith and character (cf. Job 1 & 2).

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