

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

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

Isn't that ultimately what we all desire? Going to assemble with the saints and worship God is an important part in having that desire fulfilled. Certainly we don't want to be guilty of forsaking the assembly (Heb. 10:24,25). But, I hope you understand that God isn't going to say on Judgment Day – "All those who have been to church 1000 times or more may enter into heaven." No, it won't be like that at all. Faithfulness is not necessarily dependent upon the number of times one has gathered with the saints. Heaven is promised to those who faithfully endure the Christian life to the end. Consider some of Paul's last recorded words of inspiration in 2 Tim. 4:7,8 – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on the Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." Revelation 2:10 records these words of Christ – "...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Sadly, there are those who have been deceived into thinking that going to church regularly guarantees them a home in heaven. The Bible does not teach that! Others think that responding to an alter call and praying Jesus into their hearts will save them. The Bible does not teach that! The Lord Jesus Christ taught in Matthew 7:21 – "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." To call on the Lord for His mercy is not sufficient, because some will do that very thing and be eternally lost! One must obey God and do His will! Jesus could not have made it any plainer! If we want to be saved from our sins and remain in God's good favor, we must do more than just warm a foot or two of pew a couple times a week. We must obey the gospel and busy ourselves doing God's will. Don't be deceived into thinking that close association with faithful Christians will be enough to gain God's approval and get you into heaven. Going to church for worship and edification is wonderful, but it is just one aspect of a faithful Christian life. Assembling with the saints is important but not sufficient for a sanctified life.

In summary, let us all remember that just because we go to church doesn't mean we're real Christians – genuine Christians follow Christ in all things, not just on Sunday mornings. Just because we go to church doesn't mean our children will end up being faithful Christians. Yes, they need to come and learn about the Bible and be taught what it means to worship God properly, but if we think a

couple of hours a week is all the spiritual education we need, we're tragically mistaken. Just because we go to church doesn't mean our lives will go smoothly. In fact, it is probably fair to say that living as a Christian will actually make our lives even more difficult! Just because we go to church doesn't mean we will make it to heaven. Those who obey the gospel and are faithful unto death are the ones that will enjoy a heavenly home. I intend to be among that group. What about you? Are you a baptized, penitent believer? Are you living a sincere life before God every day, and not just on the first day of the week? May the Lord bless you as you strive to do His will.

Donald