

Just Because You Go to Church Doesn't Mean...

I ran across this lesson in my files and thought I would share it with you...

There are those who believe that attending the services of the church regularly will secure for them a heavenly home and make their life on Earth free of difficulties. Join us as we analyze these false assumptions (and others) about going to church.

We, as humans, make assumptions everyday. We assume that when we go to bed at night, we will wake up in the morning. We assume that the job we hold today will still be ours tomorrow. We assume that our children will outlive us. We assume that when we come home from a trip, our house will still be standing. On and on we could go with these sorts of examples, but the point I want to make is simple: Most of the assumptions we make are correct, but not always. Sometimes we are wrong. There are people everyday who go to sleep and never wake up. There are some who will return home to find their house consumed by fire.

In addition to the above physical assumptions, we often make spiritual assumptions as well. For instance, many assume that a Bible showing signs of wear indicates its owner is a good student of God's word. In truth, they might not be a student of the Scriptures at all. They might just not take very good care of the holy book. There are also many common assumptions made regarding those who attend an assembly of Christians. However, like the prior assumptions, these are not always true. In the three bulletin lessons I'd like to debunk four typical assumptions made pertaining to church attendance.

1. Just because You Go To Church Doesn't Mean You Are A Christian.

If I were to go and sit down in a field of beautiful flowers, would that make me a flower? Of course not! No Matter how long I sit in that field, I won't ever grow petals or bloom. Likewise, just because a person associates with Christians doesn't mean that he is one. Righteousness is not transferable. According to Ezekiel 18:20 – "The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself." One could associate with some of the finest Christians on earth, and that individual wouldn't necessarily have God's favor. Take Judas Iscariot for example in John 12:4-6. During the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry, there was a feast at Bethany and Mary anointed Jesus' feet with costly spikenard. Judas complained – "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" Of course, Judas didn't care about the poor but wanted to steal the money for himself! Judas' close association with the other apostles and Jesus for over 3 years did not cover his sins or make him a righteous man.

Throughout the history of the Lord's church, there have always been certain ones who were either openly sinful or idle with their Christianity. Just because they may have regularly attended services or had a close association with other sincere Christians does not brighten their spiritual condition. Consider 2 Thess. 3:11 as an illustration of this truth – "For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner." There were evidently some disciples at Thessalonica who were closely associated with Christians, but that didn't make them faithful or pleasing to God. They were disorderly and not to be fellowshiped. Let us remember that a Christian is one who follows Christ. Merely going to church with other Christians doesn't mean that you are one. Final judgment will be rendered individually, not congregationally. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10). Attending a great church is not going to save your soul if you don't obey the Lord personally!

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