

Church? Why Bother?

You go to school to get an education so you can make a living. You go to work to make money to pay the bills. You go to the track for exercise and better health. You go to the mall to shop for clothes and to the grocery store to buy food. You go to the lake to fish, the ball game to cheer, and the golf course for fun. But church services? Why go there? Why get up early on one of your few off-days? Why go through the hassle of dressing up and getting the children ready? Why go to the trouble of finding parking space (preferably in the front) and pew space (preferably in the back)? Why sing, bow in prayer, put hard-earned money in the plate, take communion, and listen to the preacher's sermon?

Some look upon church attendance as a bother—an unnecessary burden to be avoided when possible—a perfectly good hour wasted in order to keep a wife or a preacher or a parent off our backs. They go out of a sense of duty—they don't want to, but they have to. It is seen as a tolerable exercise in spiritual attainment—sort of like punching a spiritual clock or getting brownie points with the Maker. At best it is a time to socialize—see and be seen. To someone who understands worship, though, these four hours a week are different. It is not about me and what I want. It's about God and what He wants.

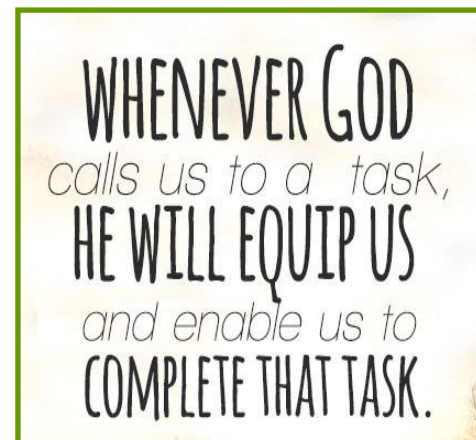
"Bother" with Worship Because God "Bothered" with Calvary

If you had given your child to die for someone, would you expect him to be appreciative? If you loved someone so much that she never left your thoughts, would you be hurt if she considered it an inconvenience to come around you (cf. [1 Chronicles 28:9](#))? If you were a judge who would soon handle an admittedly guilty person's case, would you expect him to show you respect in an appeal for leniency ([Revelation 20:12-15](#))?

Now put yourself in God's place. Stand at Calvary's cross and tearfully recall the pitiful cry of God's only Son—now beaten, bloodied, and bruised—as He said: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" ([Matthew 27:46](#)). As He listens to that plaintive cry, one can almost picture the tears blurring His vision, the flush in His cheeks, and the quivering in the Almighty's chin. The Omnipotent One did not lift a finger; the Omniscient One did not say a word; the Omnipresent God fled the scene ([Mark 15:34](#)). God endured that heartbreak so my sin-cursed soul could be saved. Is it a "bother," then, for me to attend a service in His honor? Is it too much to ask that I give praise and adoration to such a wonderful God? How can I help but say, "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift" ([2 Corinthians 9:15](#)).

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Tinker Langston will have knee manipulation in Baxter Wednesday to get it to bend properly.
- ◆ Noelle's daughter is recovering from double pneumonia.
- ◆ Clifford Lansdown has an infection in his elbow.
- ◆ Mike Shipley of the Ball congregation had a heart attack.
- ◆ Pat Trivitt of the Howard Ridge community had a stroke.
- ◆ Richard Blackburn re-injured his knee last weekend.
- ◆ Rene Blackburn will have a procedure to see if the heart device is in the proper position.
- ◆ Cindy Gibson, Nichole's aunt, is hospitalized again with cancer.
- ◆ Devin Swindle's mother-in-law died last Monday. Prayers of comfort for his family.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Sue Hambelton, Barbara White, Larry Butler, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins, Nikki Smith.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-4	Nichole Lane	4-7	Elmo and Sue Hambelton
4-6	Barbara James	Birthdays	
4-11	Vicki Smith	4-26	Mark Lane
4-14	Sailor Anderson	4-28	Rebecca Hambelton
4-16	Dustin Lynne	4-27	Barbara Stevens
4-18	Lana Cockrum	4-29	Harold Reynolds
4-19	Logan Hillhouse		

Tiffany is serving chicken spaghetti, veggies, salad, bread, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Jessica Smith is taking family pictures after services in April for a new directory. Please have your picture taken today.

Date	Event	Details
April 21-24	Gospel Meeting Hollister	Bob Hampton
Sat., April 27, 10-2:00	Fair Haven Home	60th Celebration
Sat., May 18, 3 p.m. games; BBQ at 5:30; ice cream sundaes dessert	Family Fun & Fellowship	Bounce house, yard games.
Sat., June 1st	Vacation Bible School	Here

A huge thank you to all the ladies who helped prepare for our Prayer Brunch. It was a great success.

April Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Communion & Closing Prayer

4-21 Mark Lane
4-28 Don Luna

Paul Wade
Don Reynolds

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

April 21, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Jesus Calls for Workers***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#643, *Sowing the Seeds*; #634, *We'll Work Till Jesus Comes*

#379, *If That Isn't Love*; Communion Service

#961, *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Scripture Reading by Waylon Strong, Matt. 9:37-38

Sermon and Invitation

#63, *I Will Call Upon the Lord*

#650, *Send the Light*

Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355
Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us