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DOES IT MATTER?



If I Don't Faithfully Attend Church Services?

- Many believe they can serve God and be acceptable to Him without ever attending the church services. People with this attitude often state:
 - 1) They have issues with “organized religion.”
 - 2) Or they don't want to be around “hypocrites in the church.”
 - 3) Or it's just not important to assemble.
- **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching (Heb. 10:23-25).**
 - God, thus church, MUST come first.
 - **Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . . (Matt. 6:33).**

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If I Don't Faithfully Attend Church Services?

- If we willfully forsake worshipping God together with the saints, we are not very different from an unbeliever.
 - **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (Heb. 10:26-29).**

Where I Go To Church?

- Many believe it does not matter what type of church we belong to, as long as we're "going somewhere, God will be okay with it."
 - Rev. 2-3 teaches the exact opposite.
 - Not all churches are faithful like Philadelphia **(3:7-13)**.
 - A church can be loveless like Ephesus **(2:1-7)**.
 - Many churches are compromising like Pergamos **(2:12-17)**.
 - Countless churches are corrupt like Thyatira **(2:18-29)**.
 - A number of churches are dead like Sardis **(3:1-6)**.
 - Some churches are lukewarm like Laodicea **(3:14-22)**.
- Rev. 2-3 teaches us that it absolutely matters what type of church we belong to. Where we go to church matters.

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If I Don't Study?

- Ask someone why they believe a particular practice or teaching is scriptural and they will not provide you with book, chapter, and verse (**Col. 3:16**). Instead, they will say, “I think,” “I feel,” “I just don’t see what the big deal is,” etc., all of which are insufficient answers.
 - **“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12).**
 - **“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23).**
- Just because we think/feel/believe something doesn’t mean we believe the truth or came to this knowledge through the word of God.

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If I Don't Study?

- Truth is understandable.
 - **Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).**
- We can only come to knowledge of the truth through studying God’s word.
 - **For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:1-5).**

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If I Sin?

“My Sins Only Affect Me.”

When we make sinful choices, we impact more than just ourselves.

- 1) When an employee does not do the work his employer requires (**Col. 3:22; Eph. 6:5-9**), his fellow co-workers suffer, the employer suffers, the customer suffers, and God's name suffers (**1 Tim. 6:1**). +
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- 2) A family suffers immensely when the husband/father is not willing to work and provide for his wife and children (**1 Tim. 5:8**).
- 3) When a person divorces his spouse for any reason other than fornication, he leaves the divorced spouse alone, easily tempted by Satan (**1 Cor. 7:3-5**), and unable to remarry until the original spouse dies (**Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3**). If there are children, they face the consequences of a fractured family due to no fault of their own.

If I Sin?

“My Sins Only Affect Me.”

When we make sinful choices, we impact more than just ourselves.

- 4) When God allows a person to prosper but he neglects to help those in need (**Gal. 6:10**), not only does he jeopardize his soul (**Matt. 25:41-43; James 2:14-17**), but those who are lacking do not receive the help they desperately need (**Luke 10:30-32**). + ● ○
- 5) When a person does not set a Godly example before his peers (**Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Tim. 4:12**), he negatively affects their ability to serve God (**1 Cor. 15:33**), and can become a hindrance to non-believers obeying the gospel (**1 Pet. 3:1-2**).
- 6) When a person serves God in word only and not in deed (**1 John 3:18; James 1:22-25**) [in other words, he is a hypocrite], those around him are also at risk of becoming hypocrites (**Gal. 2:11-13**).

If I Sin?

“My Sins Only Affect Me.”

When we make sinful choices, we impact more than just ourselves.

- 7) Our fellow church members lose out on needed encouragement and being stirred up to love and good works when we neglect assembling for worship **(Heb. 10:24-25)**. + ● ○
- 8) When a person does something that does not violate his own conscience but violates the consciences of those around him, he can cause them to sin **(1 Cor. 8:9-13; Rom. 14:13)**.
- 9) If we forgive someone who has sinned but has not repented, we give that person false hope that God has forgiven them for sin **(Luke 17:3-4)**.
- 10) When a pregnant woman makes the decision to have an abortion, she takes the life of an innocent "baby" with an eternal soul **(Luke 1:41-44)**.

How I Live?

The Scriptures teach that it is of utmost importance that we conduct ourselves in purity and avoid sin.

- **For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire” (2 Pet. 2:20-22).**
- If a Christian falls back into the sins of the world, he is in a worse condition than if he had never become a Christian to begin with.



How I Live?

It is imperative that we walk worthy of our calling and the Lord's sacrifice.

- **For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Col. 1:10).**
- **As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving (Col. 2:6-7).**
- **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:8-10).**



How I Live?

It is imperative that we walk worthy of our calling and the Lord's sacrifice.

- **I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called . . . This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk (Eph. 4:1, 17).**
- **For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light . . . See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:8, 15-16).**
- **You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:10-12).**

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How I Live?

None of us are worthy of the sacrifice that Jesus offered on our behalf. He took on our sins and died so that we would not have to face the punishment we deserve. But that is exactly why – even though we don't deserve His precious gift – we must repay Him and our God by daily walking worthily of that sacrifice.



How are you repaying our Lord?

Are you walking worthy of His Heavenly calling?