

Is church attendance really that important? Isn't what is in a person's heart more important?

By House to House / September 27, 2024 / Bob Prichard

The idea that church attendance is not very important would have seemed strange to the first century Christians. From the beginning of the church, they met together to worship God. Luke described the early church in Acts 2, saying that they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:42, 46-47). Paul wrote, "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:26). Obviously, they loved to and expected to come together.

Some argue, however, that just going to church does not make one a Christian, and going to church does not have that much to do with the kind of person one really is. There is no doubt that simply going to church does not make one a Christian, and it is also true that the kind of person one really is, is very important. But these arguments are really irrelevant, because God has commanded that they who would be pleasing to Him must meet together to worship Him. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). There is a must about worship to Almighty God. If one does not do what God has commanded, he sins. Jesus also said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Failure to worship with the church shows a lack of love for the Lord.

The Hebrew writer said, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). How can a Christian provoke unto love and to good works, or be provoked unto love and to good works, when forsaking the assembling of God's people?

Every member of the body is needed for the worship services. "As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. For the body is not one member, but many" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). The absentee misses the opportunity to join with other Christians in singing praises to God, offering corporate prayer to God, and in giving to God as he has been prospered. He misses the opportunity to learn from and profit from exhortations from God's word. Can anyone really say that he is better off by not participating in the worship of the church? The willful absentee sins against the God of heaven, denies himself the blessings of God, and hurts the church, the bride of Christ.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Kevin Kastning had two stents put in his arteries Friday.
- ◆ Harold Reynolds will take cancer treatments when he regains his strength. He is very weak at this time.
- ◆ Jack Moyers was released from Baxter Hospital back to the senior living facility.
- ◆ Melinda Walrath still has some health issues after her heart attack.
- ◆ Winston Abraham had heart valve surgery Wednesday.
- ◆ Melinda Abraham will have shoulder surgery August 5th.
- ◆ Those recovering from surgery: Bethany Schneider's mother, Melissa Rumenapp, Renee Schmucker.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Mary Morrison, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Harold Reynolds, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

Blessings

- ◆ Randy Johnson was baptized last Sunday during the service. Let's rejoice with him.

We have been called into relationships with our eternal family—God's family, which we are all a part of—so we might experience the Lord's covenant healing, belonging, and redemption together in Him.

The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

- 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 NLT -

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
8-9	Paul Wade	8-29	Bill and Aleta Collins (65)
8-12	Gunner Hambelton	8-29	Chuck and Amy Myers
8-18	Marsha Crisp	8-30	Corey and Hope Hillhouse
8-29	Charlotte Schneider (8)		

Some Unusual Things for Which to be Thankful

- ♦ Be thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing . . . it means you have a house.
- ♦ Be thankful for the spot you find at the far end of the parking lot . . . it means you are capable of walking.
- ♦ Be thankful for all the complaining you hear about our government . . . it means we have freedom of speech.

"The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."
~ Oswald Chambers

Always remember that under the New Covenant God loves us as much as He loves Jesus for we are in Him.

August Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

8-3 Mark Lane
8-10 David Stevens
8-17 Don Luna
8-24 John Abraham
8-31 Mark Lane

Communion & Closing Prayer

D. E. Pleasant
Dana Crisp
Mark Lane
Don Luna
R. J. Moyers

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

August 3, 2025

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: ***The New Covenant***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

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

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us