

“Do Not Leave Your Responsibilities to God”

by
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Introduction:

Our congregation has been blessed to watch many young people grow up in our midst. Among our young, we have some High School Seniors this year. As they venture out into “life on their own”, many will head to a college campus in pursuit of higher education.

It is our constant-hope, and prayer, that we have done enough to arm our children against the pressures that will come with their new environments. We know that there will be some hazards along the way. We do not want our children’s spiritual hope to be dashed by “the mind of college”. The pressure to reject their principles and to accept worldly ways is going to be one of the greatest pressures that these souls face.

This lesson is intended to encourage spiritual survival for these young ones who are heading out on their own. The focus of this lesson is “*Do Not Leave Your Responsibilities to God for College!*”

Christians Have Responsibilities

The church is not just our local club. The church is not like other organizations; it is the divinely patterned gathering of souls called out from the world (Matthew 16:18). The church’s functioning force is known as “local congregations”; in the Scriptures, we read of congregations in Ephesus, Jerusalem, Philippi, Thessalonica, etc. These “local” groups require participants to function—*without people, the will of God cannot be carried out and will not be carried out.*

While “away” at college, we must maintain our responsible service to God—we *must continue to worship and serve God, through His Son Jesus Christ* (John 4:24; Hebrews 9:14). These responsibilities are not only when we are “home”. Any of us, when we travel or move from home, need to seek out a faithful congregation of the Lord’s church, with which to assemble.

It is my sincerest advice that before you “move”, “travel”, or head off to school that you find a faithful congregation with which to assemble and participate in, or near, your new location. Christians do not take a vacation from serving God. Christians plan for worshipping and serving God as we should, continuously for as long as we are able (We will be longing

to do so, if we ever become “unable”). Taking a four-year break from worshipping God is a disastrous plan; it is intently “forsaking” all the requirements of worship and service (Hebrew 10:25).

There is Too Much to Miss

In this series, there has been a continuous warning of how difficult this world can be, especially in the campus environments. We cannot take a four-year break from our spiritual growth and expect to be what God wants us to be. If your plan is to only attend Bible Study and Worship when you are home on the occasional visit, you will starve your soul. We need spiritual nutrition on a continuous basis (Psalm 1:1-6; James 1:25). We need to “*abide*” [remain continuously] in the word (John 8:31-32; 2 John 9). We need our “*senses exercised*” by the use of the word, to discern properly (Hebrews 5:14). We need to be “*hearers*” and “*doers*” of the word to be blessed (James 1:17-25). We need “*the sincere milk of the word*” to grow (1 Peter 2:1-3).

Just like here at home, when you engage yourself in this process, there are many benefits. By associating ourselves with a local congregation, we gain their consideration in our most important needs (Hebrews 10:24 “*stir up love and good works*”). There is a big void in our lives without this source of help. Brethren have kind affection, brotherly love, and honor for one another (Romans 12:10). Brethren admonish one another (Romans 15:14). Brethren work together to provide for our walk on the narrow way (Ephesians 4:25-32). With a local spiritual family, we gain protection and reinforcement against the corruptions that consistently work to influence souls away from God (Ephesians 6:10-18). We all need a place we can recharge and renew our abilities to overcome this world (Romans 15:32; 2 Corinthians 7:13). By gathering with the faithful, we know that we are not alone in our stand against the ways of the world (Romans 12:2). We have the comfort of knowing the support and encouragement (Romans 12:9-15) of those who share “*like precious faith*” (2 Peter 1:1).

You are Needed There, and Here

To function as a Christian each of us needs to actively participate in a local congregation. Faithful local churches in college areas are typically well suited for providing students a sense of belonging and a home away from home. As we have already discussed: When you are on the front lines in the battle against worldliness, it is important to have needed-resources

nearby (Ephesians 4:11-16). Local brethren—*teachers and encouragers*—among whom, you can be built up and strengthened in your faith.

It takes a great measure of wisdom and foresight to know that your spiritual success is far more important than any material success. Give God the proper place in your life (Mark 12:30). Pray for your daily needs and certainly for wisdom (James 1:5). Maintain your involvement in doing the will of God (Matthew 7:21). Then return home to establish your career. What better place could you find to establish your life, your future family? What better place to raise your children “*in the training and admonition of the Lord*”?

In all things, seek God’s will first (Matthew 6:33). Go to school, seeking God first. Battle against the pulls of this world, seeking God first. Grow in your education and training, seeking God first. Return home, strong and ready to take up your role here, seeking God first!

Conclusion:

Every year young people leave their parental homes with hearts full of hopes and dreams—*many will be seeking a college education*. It is possible for every young Christian to be educated, and successful, without abandoning their faith in God, *but it will take determination*.

It is not easy to maintain a godly character, in the face of this world’s pressures. We can never be pleasing to God without acknowledging our responsibility to serve Him according to His will. There is strength and encouragement in our participation with brethren. There is no greater goal than a home in Heaven, which should be our mutual goal and mutual need for encouragement.

You are pursuing an education to increase your earthly “living”, but do not sacrifice eternal life in the process. There is no better life than one that puts God first. God is offering you the hope of the best life, and also eternal life with Him. Your new journey begins with one step—*your obedience to God’s plan*. If you are ready; begin right now.