

What Can You Do For Your Church?

I recall some memories I had of a situation working with a couple who was thinking about coming to worship with me a few years back. It saddens me to think that so many have this question in reverse. Many people look at what the church can do for you. This is not speaking even in spiritual terms.

When I first moved to Wooster, I remember I had someone say that if you wanted to preach then this was the area. Wooster has almost any and every type of religious organization you can think of. We have what some coin as the "mega" churches. Extremely large buildings that host thousands of individuals. They offer all diverse types of services of worship and services for individuals.

Schools are a popular choice. People want their children to go to a good Christian school. These have good morals, but people choose where they want to worship based on schools. The more schools are offered at different churches the more people tend to go to said places. Notice over the last 30-40 years how many diverse types of churches offer secular education and notice the extreme influx of people coming to worship there. Part in due because members receive cheaper rates and some only offer schooling to their said members.

In a situation I remember, I had one individual choose not to come to worship with us because we did not have a softball team. I thought from all the inquiries about this we have forgotten what is needed and what to do in an assembly. What they were looking for was what can the church do for me? Although we can and need to look to at what the church can do it is all for the wrong reasons. People want to be entertained, want services provided for them at a discounted cost, want a church for all the wrong reasons.

Jesus said that he came to seek and save the lost (**Luke 19:10**). This is the purpose of God sending us Jesus Christ. He was sent to seek and save that which was lost. We are lost in sin (**Romans 6:23**). We are separated from God. We are without hope and strength. However, God loved us enough to send us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ even in our time of sin and ungodliness (**Romans 5:6-11**). We were without strength and hope of eternal rest and reward. However, Christ has made it possible for each one of us to be saved. Remember, Christ came to seek and save that which was lost.

His message was simple (**Mark 16:15-16**) to go and preach the gospel to all teaching about belief and baptism both being necessary for Salvation. Again, in **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus told His disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He also here told them to observe all things that He has commanded meaning a consistent effort on our part to continue to do God's Will after baptism. Meaning, I have work to do still to this point!

His message was simple as we should be desiring to be part of the kingdom of God (**Matthew 16:18-19**). Jesus here speaks further about his kingdom here about building it on the rock! He in this case gave Peter the keys to open the doors of the kingdom, which was done in **Acts 2** as we see the Lord was adding to the church daily those who were being saved.

They used the gospel message to draw people into the church and more importantly drawing near to God (**James 4:7-10**). It is not some softball team that needs to draw one closer to God. Nor is it some luncheon or service provided by man to entice those to be part of the local work. It should not be "What can the Church do for You?" Instead, it should be "What Can You Do For Your Church?"

It is God who has given us Christ (**John 3:16**). It is God who has made a way of escape possible for each of us (**I Corinthians 10:13**) and believe me when I talk about human error, we all make mistakes and need help and God is willing to help us. It is God who has also provided us comfort (**Matthew 10:28-30**) knowing that we need that caring one and we can have that with God (**I Peter 5:7**). With all this being said it is God who wants to seek Him and find Him (**Acts 17:22-31**). Again, we must do our part seek and find God and repent. I need to be willing to do such things to be part of His kingdom.

I need a cheerful and giving heart to God (**II Corinthians 9:6-7**) I should desire to seek and do God's will freely and openly. I need to put God first (**Matthew 6:33**). I need to put His kingdom first in my life and His ways first in my life. I should seek to help benefit the kingdom here on earth, so we can enjoy the rewards of eternal kingdom with God after we pass away (**II Timothy 4:7-8**). I should do everything within my power to help the local work here as I am alive and breathing. I should not look at the services that so many denominations today offer, to entice others to come to worship with them. This is not only wrong, but it puts my soul in jeopardy, and I know that this is not the way God intended.

Instead let us look at what we can do for the church by giving ourselves to God and Jesus Christ (**Matthew 7:21-23**). What are you doing now? --**Daniel Sanders**