

WHAT DOES A “SUNDAY MORNING” CHRISTIAN MISS?

The matter of being faithful in attending all services of the church is of the utmost importance. We are rapidly becoming a one service per week church, because too many church members feel that one’s Christian duty has been discharged if they attend the Sunday morning worship service. Suppose each member of the church treated the Bible School, Sunday night, and Wednesday night with this attitude. What would happen to the church? Would it be strengthened or weakened? Would it grow or die? Sadly, we all know the answers to these questions. The man who limits himself to only attending the Sunday morning service deprives himself of the richest blessings of the Christian life.

A “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **information**. The people of Hosea’s day were “*destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6). This same sin is destroying many today. One never reaches the point in his Christian life that he doesn’t need to know more, because the Christian life is one of continual growth (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). If the Christian is going to grow as he must, he must “add to *virtue, knowledge*” (2 Peter 1:5). One may learn something from every sermon he hears or every class he attends.

A “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **association**. First and foremost, he misses association with the Lord. Jesus has promised to be present when two or three are gathered together in His name (Matt. 18:20).

Just as children need association with their earthly parents we need association with our Heavenly Father. Secondly, he misses association with his brethren. Christians need the fellowship and association with fellow Christians. It is said of the early Christians that “*they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread; and in prayers*” (Acts 2:42). In the third place, he misses association with the unsaved seeking the truth. What does the

visitor from the community think when he attends and those whom he knows to be Christians are not there?

A “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **inspiration**. The needs of the inward man are as real and vital as the needs of the outward man. Job said, “*neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food*” (Job 23:12). Attending the services of the church and the inspiration that we receive from studying God’s word, helps us daily in our Christian lives. “*Wherefore we faint not, but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day*” (2 Cor. 4:16).

A “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **edification**. Paul urged the Corinthians to excel in the edifying of the church (1 Cor. 14:12). Building up the church is a responsibility that begins with each member of the church (Eph. 4:16). Christians are “*to follow after things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another*” (Rom. 14:19). “*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do*” (1 Thess. 5:11). A strong church cannot be built by a weak membership, and a strong Christian character cannot be built out of one service per week. As we attend the services of the church we are edified and we edify others.

The “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **immunization**. As in John’s day, “*the whole world lieth in wickedness*” (1 John 5:19). All of us need to receive immunization from this wicked world. Hearing God’s word preached from the pulpit, and taught from the classroom helps us to remain free from this sinful world. David said, “*Wherewithal shall a man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*” (Psalm 119:9, 11). Faithful attendance at all services of the church can help to keep us from the spiritual wickedness of the world.

The “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **confirmation**. To confirm means to “settle, make firm, to establish.” Paul spent much time in “*confirming the souls of the disciples, exhorting*

them to continue in the faith” (Acts 14:22). Again, he “*exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them*” (Acts 15:32). Peter wrote, “*Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the truth which is in you*” (2 Peter 1:12).

The “Sunday Morning Christian” misses **jubilation**. A Christian is taught to “*rejoice evermore*” (1 Thess. 5:16). Faithful participation in each service of the church will furnish the grounds for such rejoicing. David said, “*...I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday*” (Psalm 42:4). After the ascension of Christ, the disciples *Worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy*” (Luke 24:52). Those who attend only once a week often miss the joys of faithful attendance. Those who attend only once a week often miss baptisms and reports from the mission field which bring additional joy to the worshipper. Those who are faithful in attendance leave rejoicing for the opportunity to have been there.

Anytime we are absent from the services of the church, we miss a great deal. God has commanded us to be present whenever the church assembles (Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 14:23). God, the creator of man, knows man better than man knows himself, and when He gives a commandment it is given with man’s good in view. If we love God and his commandments as we ought (John 14:15, 21-24; 1 John 5:3), attending the services will not be our duty but our desire. Only those who are faithful to the Lord are promised a “*crown of life*” (Rev. 2:10). All “*must appear before the judgment seat of Christ*” (2 Cor. 5:10). Will he answer to you “*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.,?*” (Matt. 25:21). (Indebted to Deleamar Owens for major points of this outline).

from The Encourager

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif; Tom Tucker (PM).

Wednesday: Janice and Jessica Carter; Millie Robertson. Louise Dodson is recovering from her foot surgery at home. Tom Tucker is being treated for an eye disorder. Barbara James is recovering from her surgery.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Parish's were in Iowa visiting relatives last weekend. Chris Edwards was out of town on business last week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, December 7, following our AM worship.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 14, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 47; Sunday PM, 45; Wednesday PM, 34.

Gospel Meeting

"Questions We Need To Ask Ourselves"

December 7 – 10, 2008

**Chipman Road Church of Christ
Lee's Summit, Missouri**

Those To Serve

December 7, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
PRESIDE..... George Thomas
ASSIST..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Steve Brown
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... George Thomas

WEDNESDAY 10th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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