

of more value than the entire world (Matthew 16:26). Remember, “the soul that sinneth it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20). There are any number of excuses which one may make in an effort to justify his intentional absence from the worship of God. Some of these may even be thought to be legitimate in the minds of those who make them. Yet, when one understands the value of the soul he will also come to see that there is no excuse for failing to properly care, nourish and prepare his soul for eternity. Jesus said, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” (Luke 21:19). The word “possess” in this verse comes from a Greek word that means “to get, i.e. to acquire by any means.” (Strongs). The inspired Paul wrote in Romans 2:6-7 that God will “render to every man according to his deeds.” He then wrote that those “who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.” Are you seeking glory, honor and immortality? Do you desire eternal life? Then patient continuance in well doing is necessary to obtaining it. God will not accept excuses for He has already demonstrated the value of your soul in sending Jesus to die for your sins. Since he places so much value upon your soul, why would you want to diminish it’s value by refusing to attend Bible classes and worship.

Fourth, when I willfully forsake

the worship of the church I evidence a deeper spiritual problem. The problem of the lack of attendance at worship by members of the Lord’s church who can be present but choose not to be is the problem of sin. When one puts any person or thing before the Lord that person or thing becomes an idol. The long stated principle of truth is simply, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:3). A Christian who harbors the darkness of some sin in his/her life of which he/she refuses to repent will shun the light of truth found in the Bible class and worship assembly. “...and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19). The truth is that the willful refusal to attend worship services is usually the symptom of a underlying spiritual problem of other sin (s). The need is repentance. The cure is the blood of Christ (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9). “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” (Rom. 13:12).

For those who truly love the Lord and appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ attendance at Bible classes and worship is neither a chore or inconvenience. Instead it is a taste of heaven and a tremendous joy. “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1).

Liledoun Road ANCHOR

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Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes – 10:00 am

AM Worship – 11:00 am

PM Worship – 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:30 pm

Elders

Fred Watkins

632-5542

Ralph Lowtharpe

632-6145

Preacher

Jonnie Hutchison

632-7344

When I Absent Myself from Worship

Jonnie Hutchison

Those of us who have been Christians for a number of years have heard any number of sermons, read any number of bulletin articles, and digested any number of Bible class lessons concerning the sin of “willfully forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” (Hebrews 10:25). Perhaps we have heard it so much that the teaching of the Bible regarding this sin no longer effects us as it should. Regardless, what the Bible says about the sin of intentionally absenting oneself from worship has not changed nor will it change. It is still a serious matter, indeed, a soul saving or soul losing matter.

It is vital for new Christians to come to an understanding of the importance of assembling for Bible classes and worship. The devil will be on the attack (1 Peter 5:8). His relentless efforts are especially directed to the new babe in Christ. He does not want the new Christian to ever begin to grow in the knowledge of God’s word and the fellowship that accompanies worship. The devil knows that the spiritually mature are those who regularly and consistently attend Bible classes and wor-

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News and Notes

To Our Visitors

It is always a joy to welcome visitors to our services. We are thankful for each one who has chosen to be present. A number of tracts and other materials are available in the lobby of the building. There is no charge for any of this material. If you would like to enroll in a free Bible Correspondence Course or an in home Bible study please mark that on your visitors card. We hope you will return and be with us at your every opportunity.



grandmother Ruby Philips this past week.

House to House

We will meet this evening after services to prepare the next issue of the House to House/Heart to Heart paper for mailing. Any who would like to come early before services and work on the paper may do so if you can't stay afterwards. You will find the papers ready in the large classroom.

Lessons Today

AM: "Miracles of Healing"

PM: "Lessons from a Half Baked Cake"
The Book of Hosea

Last Call

If you wish to have your information in the new directory and you have not turned in your in-

formation form please do so **today**. We hope to have these published and available for distribution before the end of the month.

**"I Wouldn't Miss
Heaven for the
world - Would
You?"**



Remember In Prayer

Alvin and Phyllis Bullington, Ethel Watson, Dena Bishop, Sandra Dixon, Philip Bullington, Alex White, Loretta Philips, Kris Koko, Hubert Keys, Ben and Belle Alexander and Ken Koko. If you know of others who should be added to this list please let it be known.



Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Scott Philips and family with the passing of his

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ship services. He knows that those who forsake the assembly of the church are those who are weakest in the faith. Characteristic of a lion, the devil will attack us at our weakest point. His roar will not diminish until he either has devoured us or we grow to the point of active and continual resistance to his efforts. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7).

What is the effect on me when I willfully absent myself from the Bible classes and worship services of the church?

First, I hurt my personal spiritual growth. The Bible instructs us to continual spiritual growth as we live before God. "But **grow** in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18a). "But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Spiritual growth doesn't automatically occur. It is necessary for every child of God to put forth a diligent and consistent effort to grow spiritually. Attending Bible classes and assembling for worship are not the only means for spiritual growth but they are indispensable for proper spiritual growth.

It is obvious that those who fail to consistently attend Bible classes and worship in any given congregation are

the weakest members of that congregation. One cannot grow without study. Very seldom is it the case that one who refuses to attend Bible classes and worship will spend time in personal Bible study. When I willfully absent myself from Bible classes and worship services I hurt my personal spiritual growth.

Second, I hurt my influence. Each of us influences those around us whether it be our own family, our friends, or those with whom we work or do business. An impression about us is formed by each person with whom we come in contact. Jesus said that we are to "let our lines shine before men" (Matt. 5:16). Either our lights are shining brightly by the example we set and thereby bringing glory to God or they are dim, flickering or extinguished altogether by our refusal to set the right kind of example.

When I refuse to attend Bible classes and worship I have extinguished my light. Since God commands me not to forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25) then how can I be setting the right kind of example when I violate His directive?

Third, when I willfully forsake Bible classes and worship I diminish the value and importance of my own soul. In essence I am saying by my actions that my soul is not important enough for me to preserve it from eternal destruction. Jesus said that one soul was

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