

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,*

*holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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## How Is Your Attendance?

**D**avid once said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" (Psalm 122:1). Is that how you feel when you think about going to worship God with His people? Without question, every Christian should feel a great deal of joy and anticipation when the time approaches to go to worship God with others of like precious faith. The sad truth, however, is that such is not the case with many children of God. Preachers have to exhort Christians to attend every service. Elders have to get the process started of withdrawing from members who refuse to assemble (Hebrews 10:25). Many local churches have stopped having gospel meetings because the attendance is so bad. All this is very alarming. Are you a part of the problem? Do you attend every service that the local church where you attend has? If not, why not? There are reasons that force members to miss services sometimes, but you know whether or not your absence is justified, don't you? You see, many don't come to a particular service for no other reason than they just do not want to. That is not only sinful, it is a sign of a huge spiritual problem. So, how is your attendance? There are more than a few reasons why you should determine to attend every service.

### *God Wants You to Attend Every Service*

I could start off by saying that God demands you to attend every service, but I think you already know that. The fact that God wants us to be a part of the assembling of the saints should motivate us more than the fact that He commands us to. Our desire to please God should be what leads us to live in accordance with His divine will as much as anything else. After all, striving to please God is a Christ-like characteristic (John 8:29). When we consider all that God has done for us (especially the sacrificing of His only Son), and all that He continues to do (His constant providential care), doing what He wants us to do should come very natural.

### *You Need to Attend Every Service*

Why do you think God arranged for us to meet on every first day of the week in the first place? Yes, God wants to be worshipped (John 4:23), but that is not the only reason God arranged for us to meet regularly. God knew that in this world dominated by sin, we would need ongoing encouragement and strength; the kind of encouragement and strength that meeting with other saints is meant to give us (Hebrews 10:24-25). Attending every service is not something we do in order to help God. God doesn't need our help. We must attend regularly because in doing so we honor the God that we serve, but also because it helps us spiritually. When we meet together, we study God's Word in various ways. We hear teaching and preaching. We sing songs that are meant to teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16). All of this involves feeding on the Word of God and

gives us the spiritual sustenance that is needed to fight against the wiles of the devil. Remember, faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). When we forsake the assembling of ourselves together, we are robbing ourselves of what we need to thrive and survive spiritually.

### *Saints Benefits from Your Presence*

When we don't attend every service, we are being selfish. Attending as we should is not just for ourselves, it is for our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is why the Hebrews writer tells us not to forsake the assembling. We stir each other up to love and good works by our attendance (Hebrews 10:24), and by doing so we become an encouragement to each other (ver. 25). Don't you want to help your brethren grow? When you refuse to attend, your answer is "no."

### *It Is the Least You Can Do*

Finally, attending every service is really the least you can do for God. Serving God with other Christians for four, maybe five, hours a week is a small thing to do in turn for God sacrificing His Son for you, don't you think? When you think about it, refusing to give God so little after He has done so much, is an amazing degree of ingratitude. Attending services in an attempt to please God by putting Him first in our lives, is really the least we can do in view of our redemption. Remember, that redemption came with the high price. It cost Jesus His life. Surely we can, not only attend every service, but do so with joy and gladness.

*Don*

## **It is hard To hit A target When You Don't Take Aim**

by W.R. Jones

**I**t doesn't take a Solomon to understand the difficulty of hitting a target without taking aim. In life, those who take no aim are those who "walk with aimless feet." This simply means they walk through life without any goals. The church of the Lord is no exception to this rule. When a congregation is without any some kind of leadership and void of any goals, it is a church which is "adrift." This describes quite a number of churches I know about.

### **How can we take aim?**

You simply zero in on divine missions that you want to accomplish. Have a definite plan to achieve your goals. The "status quo" can never be acceptable. We must never be satisfied with simply "keeping house for the Lord." consider the following targets at which we should take aim in the Lord's work.

### **Aim for the edification of the church**

It will never "just happen" without any effort on our part. Be definite! (Ephesians 4:12, 16).

### **Aim for seeking and saving the lost**

How? Invite people to our services. Try to arrange home Bible studies. Distribute literature, hand an extra bulletin to someone. The mission of Jesus should be ours. he came to "seek and to save

the lost" (Luke 19:10). Be definite!

### **Aim to increase attendance**

Show signs of moving forward. You will find that "success breeds success." This will never accidentally happen. Be definite! When Phillip found Jesus he immediately shared the news with Nathanael (John 1:45). Share what you have with others.

### **Aim to keep your enthusiasm high**

The "ho-hum, hum-drum" attitude will never get the job done. We have the most important calling in the world. If you believe that, then act like it.