

Forsake Not!

That absenteeism is the most common problem that every congregation of the Lord's church faces is readily agreed to by all. There surely are no preachers, elders or other concerned Christians who are not at least to some degree frustrated by blatant forsaking of the assembly by fainthearted brethren.

The very least a Christian has turned his back upon is the privilege of coming before the Creator of all things, as a faithful child in worship and giving a sacrifice of praise in the name of Jesus. Who would throw away an invitation to have an audience with the president, or perhaps with a monarch, let alone an invitation to actually converse and sit at table to eat with such? I believe the main problem is that Christians afore described have not really thought through nor taken seriously their relationship with God, what the purpose of worship is, nor what their duty is to their God and Savior.

Those who forsake the assembly miss out on the fellowship designed to last eternally. How strange that some act like they could care less about the brethren, whether in worship or other planned fellowships, by never or rarely showing up, yet think they will go to Heaven with these same people and be together forever!

Closely linked to fellowship, the Christian who forsakes the assembly also misses out on edification. Edification is strictly personal. It is not so much the design of worship, but is one of the "built in" benefits or "by-products" of worship.

A third item forsaking Christians miss out on is instruction. This is usually the point some who try to justify their sin will assert, alleging that they can get as much or more out of their own, personal Bible reading at home than at worship. This writer finds it hard to believe that those who forsake the assembly actually

take time at home to study their Bibles. If they truly studied their Bible, they would soon learn their error, repent and not forsake any longer!

The fourth and fifth aspects of worship the lazy Christian misses are those of the privilege of giving and the sobering proclamation of the death of our Lord in the supper. The dedicated Christian knows the joy and reward of dutiful, bountiful and sacrificial giving to the Lord's cause. It is the grateful Christian who would not within his or her power, willfully forsake meeting with those of like precious faith around the Lord's table. Now, though it is (or should be) obvious to all the outright disobedience involved, let us list those sins involved in forsaking the assembly:

1-the disobedience of Hebrews 10:25

2-the failure to edify the brethren

3-the willful disobedience of not giving as per I Corinthians 16

4-the failure to eat the Lord's supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7, etc).

The most frightening point in all of this is: Christians who willfully forsake the assembly, and thus willfully sin in all these things just listed will miss Heaven! Surely Heaven will be worth any and all "inconvenience" we may face. But then, if assembling together with the brethren for worship and study is viewed as an "inconvenience," likely that person will miss Heaven even were they to attend!

Sermon Notes:
“The Cost of Discipleship”

- This is a rather negative sermon.
- Jesus emphasizes why we cannot be His disciples.
- There are three areas that He highlights:
 - we must put Him before our _____,
 - we must put Him before our _____,
 - we must put Him before all our _____.
- There are certain qualifications to becoming disciples:
- John 8.31—
- John 13.35—
- John 15.8—
- To take up our cross and follow after literally means:
- “Pick up to _____ an obstacle and get in line _____ our Master.”
- Examples of the cost of discipleship:
 - Lay a _____...
 - Going to _____.
 - “Salt” refers to our willingness to _____. If we do not have this, we are worthless to Him.

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Evening: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

Preachers:

James Grayson
614-409-0941

Robin W. Haley
614-751-1082

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

Phone: 614-830-0110

Website: www.ragerroad.org

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Wednesday’s Wisdom:

“We all face a multiple choice test...with only two choices: life or death. Which will you choose?” Austin Truss

Remember in prayer our sick: Lisa Bell, and recently Naomi Haley. We pray all will be better soon.

4th Sunday night sing: all avenues of worship are observed, but we will emphasize our singing in worship tonight.

Sermon Preview:

- Discipleship comes at a cost
- If we are not willing to give up all...
- We CANNOT be Christ’s disciples
- A disciple is not necessarily a Christian...but ought to become one
- There are certain qualifications for both disciple and Christian.