

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Why I Attend Every Service Of The Church

For one reason or another, there are some absent at every service; some without a reason at all. It is my conviction that attendance at the assemblies of the church is a good indication of “spiritual health.” “Forsaking the assemblies” is a symptom of “heart trouble.” Real love for the Lord says: “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” (Psa. 122:1). However, failure to assemble has become one of those “common” and “respectable” (???) sins. There are a number of reasons why I attend every service of the church and I want to share some of them with you. If you are not attending every service, I hope you will consider these reason very carefully.

1. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE BECAUSE THE LORD EXPECTS ME TO DO SO. The Lord through his inspired writers tells me not to forsake the assembling of myself together with others. (Heb. 10:25). According to Acts 2:42 it was the general practice of the first Christians to meet and engage in the various acts of worship.

2. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE TO BE WITH AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. In Matt. 18:20, Jesus promised to be with those who were gathered in his name. Therefore, when we assemble in the name of Jesus (by His authority), for worship, He is with us, we are in His presence. If someone famous were going to be at our services, I am sure that the house would be full to running over. Certainly, being with and in the presence of Jesus is of far more importance than anyone here on this

earth! If we refuse His company here on this earth, how can we expect Him to invite us into heaven to be with Him forever?

3. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS WHICH I RECEIVE. Paul points out to us that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. 1:3). So, as a member of this spiritual family, when I assemble with others of this family, I receive blessings which I cannot receive elsewhere. When I assemble, my faith is increased, my heart is encouraged so that I become more humble in spirit and holy in living. I am made to forget my fleshly nature and I am lifted to a higher standard of living.

4. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE TO MEET THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH. When Paul wrote to the Romans, he expressed a desire to be “filled with their company.” (Rom. 15:24). This indicates to us the kind of people that Paul knew made up the church in Rome, the kind with whom he wanted to be associated. There may be some bad people who claim membership in the church and there may be some morally good people outside the church but they are that way IN SPITE OF the church and not BECAUSE of it. Where else can you consistently find good honest people who are striving to do the will of God from the heart?

5. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE. Jesus, in Matt. 5:13-16 makes it very clear that he expects us to have a good influence on others. So, I realize that there are a lot of people who are watching me who know whether I attend every service of the Lord's church or not. I know my children learn from my attitude toward the assemblies. If I stay at home, I am teaching my children as well as others that I do not think the activities engaged in at the assemblies are very important. So, if I did not attend, I would not be setting a good example. In fact, I would be a bad influence instead of a good influence. You see, our actions do speak a lot louder than our words.

6. I ATTEND EVERY SERVICE BECAUSE OF WHAT I CAN GIVE. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul commended these Christians because they “first gave their own selves to the Lord.” (2 Cor. 8:5). While it is true that I receive a lot from the services, I can also contribute a lot just by my presence. When I attend, I lend encouragement to others just by virtue of

the fact that I made the effort to get up and get ready to come and worship with others of like precious faith. We exhort, comfort and edify one another when we come together. (Heb. 10:14,15; 1 Thess. 5:11)

What about you, are you a member of the Lord's church and as such do you attend every service of His church that it is possible for you to attend? If not, why not?

- Jerry L. Henderson

Insurmountable Problems For The Theory of Evolution

Those, who believe that the theory of evolution is a valid explanation for the origin of plant and animal life on earth, believe that science supports this theory. Does science support evolution? It has never been proven by science that:

- Out of chaos comes order.
- Inorganic matter can produce life.
- Life spontaneously generated.
- Plant life could produce animal life.
- One-celled animals evolved into more complex multi-celled animals.
- One species of animals evolved into another species.

The evolutionary theory is outside the realm of science for it cannot be observed and tested. The origin of the universe and life are a non-repeatable process, therefore, cannot be proven by science.

Science teaches that life begets life. This scientific fact agrees with the Bible. The "living and true God" created plant and animal life (1 Thess. 1:9; Gen. 1). Science agrees with the Bible that plants and animals produce offspring "according to its kind" (Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24).

Let us suppose that somehow algae did produce a one-celled animal. The evolutionist still must blindly believe that this one-celled animal divided into two cells and this process went on until another animal was formed. However, for the evolutionary theory to be valid there are still some insurmountable problems to explain. There must have been more than just

one one-celled animal dividing into a multi-celled animal of the same kind or the new original animal would have become extinct when it died!

These newly formed original animals must have evolved within a few years of each other. They must have evolved at the same place on earth. There must have been at least one male and one female. These must have successfully mated. Their offspring must be at least one male and one female and they must have successfully mated. This same process must have occurred thousands of times with every new animal. These animals must have evolved into more and more complex animals for evolution to be true. Who can believe it?

The only reason one would believe in the theory of evolution is because their mind has been closed to the possibility that there could be a Creator whose power and wisdom far exceeds mankind. How sad!

- Don R. Hastings

"I" PROBLEMS

Just a few short weeks before our Lord was crucified, He spoke a parable to his disciples concerning a certain rich man. The parable is found in Luke 12:16-21. This rich man was a farmer whose land had "brought forth plentifully." Faced with the problem of not having enough room for his fruits, he decided to tear down his old barns and build greater ones. He felt he would then be able to "eat, drink, and be merry."

In actuality, the problems the man was faced with did not come from his blessing of abundance, but rather from within himself. The man had two basic problems we need to guard against in our lives. His first problem was he looked too far into the future. He said he had "much goods laid up for many years" (v. 19). However, the scriptures teach us our lives are but "a vapor", and we should say "if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that" (James 4:14-15). The rich man's looking into the future was all for naught, as God tells him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee..." (v. 20).

The rich farmer's other problem was he was self-centered. Instead of praising God, who had blessed him with all of the abundance, he gloried in himself and decided to please only himself with the gifts God had given him. Due to his self-centeredness, this man is sometimes referred to as having "I-problems." In the King James Version, he uses the words "I" and "my" eleven times in only three verses.

Many times the word "covetousness" is thought of in the context of wanting material things owned by other people. However, Jesus says a person can be guilty of coveting things which belong to himself. "Take heed and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses" (v. 15).

What do we think of first when we get a raise at work or when we prosper in some other way? Do we think about all the neat material luxuries we want? Or do we consider how we might be able to do the work of the Lord better as a result of this prosperity? We must not forget the fate of the rich man, and also remember Jesus said, "So is he that lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (v. 21). Let's be sure to put God first, for without Him there would be no prosperity at all.

- Author Unknown

- > "It is the voice of the critic more than the praise of the ardent admirers that causes us to re-examine ourselves and our teaching and make improvements!"
 - > "A good conscience never costs what it is worth!"
 - > "Salvation is free, but it is not cheap!"
 - > "Take time to be holy - it takes time!"
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THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*Blessings Obtained From Bible Study!*" (Text: 2 Tim. 2:15); Sunday evening: "*He Restores My Soul!*" (Psa. 23:3).