

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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May 5, 2024

“Teach Your Children To Love Worship”

By Forrest D. Moyer



A very serious problem exists among religious families: sometimes their children who have been brought up "in the church" are anxious to "get out of the house" so they won't "have to go to church" anymore. This is a perplexing problem fraught with serious consequences. Why does a child want to "get away from" the church? What kind of children from what kind of families do so? I don't know all the answers to questions like this, but let me suggest a few thoughts.

I believe that one real source of this attitude is that children are not taught to love the worship of the Lord. From the time they are infants the parents are yelling at them on Sundays to "hurry up and get up 'cause we have to go to church" with the emphasis on "have." Nothing is said about the joy of worship. Nothing is said about the wonderful privilege that is ours. Children are taught that "going to church" is a drudge. No wonder they want to get away from it.

When children are in the assembly, often they are allowed to play with all sorts of toys and games. This causes them to think that the assembly is some place to play games; and then when they are older and too big to play games, they are bored with what is going on. Many children are not taught to sing. They are allowed to play when worship to God in song is being rendered. If they are not taught to sing as tiny tots, then as they grow older they will not sing. Parents, do you teach your children the words to songs at home so they will know them and be able to join in the singing?

It is a sad sight to see teenagers just sitting and looking around instead of singing. No wonder they have no interest. They are not taught reverence during prayer. They keep on playing instead of being taught to always bow their heads in reverence. If you took your child to the funeral of a loved one, would you give him games to play? Would you allow him to "do his own thing" or would you teach him reverence and respect for the dead? No, our worship is not a funeral, but it is holy and children need to be taught that it is.

They must be taught to study the Word. Are you studying the class lessons with your children every day? Are you teaching them to enjoy that part of the day and really look forward to it? If this is the environment of a child, you will seldom see him wander away from the Lord. Those who are taught to study the Bible are the ones who listen to sermons and lessons. They are the ones who will understand much more of the lessons that are being presented. (And, by the way, what happened to the teenagers all sitting at the front? What an inspiration that is to the whole congregation!) These are the ones who grow up to love the Lord and stay with Him.

Friend, what are you teaching your children? To love God and His worship, His word, and His people? What you teach your child, who is a tiny tot now, will determine where he will be when he is old. Seems like Solomon said something like that somewhere.

“My Tank is Empty”

by Perry Hurst

Years ago before the self-service gas stations came along we would pull into the service station and say, "fill it up." My tank is running on empty and I need some "go power." We have sometimes used this expression when referring to our physical strength or energy. We might say something like, "My tank is empty," meaning that my energy or strength is low and I need to eat or drink something to get my energy back. My tank needs to be filled back up!

Likewise, there are times whenever we feel a little drained "spiritually." My spiritual strength or energy is at a "low" and my tank needs to be filled back up. I need to be revived and get some energy back. The question is, "How do I accomplish this?" When I feel a little drained spiritually, how do I get that energy back, what can I do? Consider the following suggestions:

1. Read the Scriptures.

In the physical realm, we need food and drink to keep our energy level up. We may not feel like eating, we may be too tired to eat, but we realize that we **MUST** eat for our own well-being. Likewise in the spiritual realm, when our energy is at a "low," we need spiritual food. We may not feel like eating but we realize it is for our spiritual well-being so we eat. Then as we eat of that spiritual food, we are revived, strengthened and energized (see Matthew 4:4).

2. Pray to God... Then Pray Again... Then Pray Again.

Just keep repeating this cycle and your energy will begin to return. We will be revived through prayer! We will be revived through prayer! As we talk with God on a regular consistent basis, our spiritual energy will increase more and more (see James 5:16). Many times throughout the day, just drop everything and say a prayer. Also, set up specific times each day to pray to God. Have a regular habit of prayer!

3. Attend a Wednesday Night Service.

Many of us have experienced the situation wherein we have a full day of activity (work, housework, study, school, etc.) on a Wednesday and as the day nears its end, it is time for us to get ready to attend the Wednesday night service of the local church. We are a little tired and exhausted and don't really feel like going anywhere but we know what God wants us to do so we go. Then, once we get there and study the Word with our brethren and worship God in songs and prayers, we feel greatly revived. We realize it has been good for us to be together with our brethren worshipping our God. Our spiritual energy has greatly increased. If this works for a Wednesday night service, would it not also work for any other service such as each of the Sunday services, Gospel Meeting nights, etc.? (see Hebrews 10:24-25)

4. Spend Time With A Brother Or Sister In Christ.

Praise be to God that we have one another! It is so encouraging to be around my brethren. To be with brethren at each of the services of the local church, or at a Bible study or singing at a member's house, or at a social gathering, etc. Whenever I am feeling a little low on "spiritual energy," it always helps me to have time with my brethren. How could I ever replace this great "source of strength" that is available to me? I can't! We see God's wisdom in the relationship that He established for you and I as brothers and sisters in Christ. I know we sometimes disappoint one another but I am persuaded that the "positive" encouraging times far outweigh any of the "negative" times. When my spiritual energy needs to be increased, I turn to my brethren and I am thankful to my God for you (see Ephesians 4:16).

5. Do Something For Someone.

Jesus stated a principle that all of us have experienced and we realize full well the truth of it, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 10:35). We feel very good whenever we have the ability and the opportunity to be of help to someone. We expect nothing in return. We are thankful that such an opportunity was provided to us. It is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. Therefore, if you are feeling a little low spiritually, do something for someone. Send them a card; cook them a hot meal; take them out to eat; fix their favorite dessert; mow their yard; bring them flowers; give them a Walmart gift card (Cracker Barrel works also). You see, the possibilities are endless (see Matthew 15:31-46).

6. Don't Keep Adding To Your Plate.

Life can be described in a nutshell by one word - "BUSY!" At times we are drained of nearly all of our spiritual energy because our plate is full and we keep piling more on. We are so busy with "things" that it has zapped us of energy in the spiritual area. We need to learn to quit piling more on, to prioritize what we do have, and to first give attention to those things that pertain to our soul before we do other less important things. If we can learn to quit piling more things on top of what already needs to get done and also learn to put the spiritual things at the top of our "to do" list, this will naturally result in having more energy to accomplish these things. We will always feel spiritually drained for as long as we keep "piling it on" and keep spinning our wheels with so many less important activities. Let us begin today by asking, "What do I need to get done for God today?," then accomplish this and go on from there. Use your time wisely, walk in wisdom. Such is one secret of having spiritual energy (see Ephesians 5:15-17).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, Fred Johnson, Burt Ward, & Wesley Trimble.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“The Purposes Of Gospel Preaching”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Starting Page & Question: Herschel Patton
Page 73, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Danny Sheffield
Scripture Reading: *Luke 14:15-24*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord’s Supper: Paul Busby
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“The Parable Of The Great Supper”*
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 8, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel H. King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #72, Question #1*
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Paul Johnson

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“The Purposes Of Gospel Preaching”

Lesson Text: **1:Corinthians 1:18-21.**

A Lesson About What Is And What Is Not The Purpose Of Gospel Preaching.

I. What Some Believe About Gospel Preaching.

- It's All Being Only Positive, Nothing Negative.
- It's All About Making Everyone Feel Good.
- It's All About Motivational Speaking.
- It's All About Impressive & Dynamic Speaking Ability.
- It's All About Entertaining The Audience With Humor & Stories.

II. The Real Purposes Of Gospel Preaching.

- To Encourage To Faithfulness/Strengthen Us.
- **Acts 11:22-23; Acts 14:21-22.**
- To Reprove & Rebuke Sin.
- **2 Timothy 4:1-2; Acts 13:6-12; Acts 8:19-23.**
- To Warn Of Present Dangers.
- **Acts 20:28-31; Colossians 1:28.**
- To Instruct In Righteousness.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 4:6.**
- To Bring To Remembrance
- **2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:17.**
- To Persuade & Convict Obedience.
- **Acts 2:36-40; 26:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:11.**
- To Give Comfort To The Afflicted.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:14; 4:13-18; 1 Peter 1:6-9.**
- To Simply Proclaim Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV); 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.**
- To Save Us. **1 Corinthians 1:21.**

“The Parable Of The Great Supper”

Lesson Text: **Luke 14:15-24.**

I. The Greatness Of Salvation (vs. 15-17).

- Salvation Is Presented As Like A Feast; Something They Could Relate To.
- When One Is Planning A Great Feast, What Do They Generally Provide?
 - Great Joy. - Great Food. - Great Abundance.
 - Great Fellowship. - All At Great Expense Of The Provider.
- The Parable Expresses What God Has Provided:
 - God’s Invitation To Salvation- **Isaiah 55:1-3; Revelation 19:7-9.**
 - God Has Provided The Best:
 - The Greatest Sacrifice: God’s Only Son- **1 Peter 1:18-19.**
 - God’s Abundance- **1 Peter 1:3; Titus 3:4-7.**
 - Fellowship With God And Christ- **1 John 1:1-3.**
 - Bringing Great Joy- **1 John 1:4; Philippians 4:4.**

II. The Appalling Indifference Of Those Invited (vs. 18-20).

- **Excuse-** *“to beg off, ask to be excused,” Luke 14:18–19.*
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 47).
- The Difference Between Excuses And Reasons.
- **Excuse #1: (vs. 18)** The Excuse Of Necessary Business, *“I cannot come.”*
 - Who Buys A Property Without Looking At It First?
 - Why Does It Have To Be The Time Of The Great Supper That He Needs To Go?
 - Is The Property Going Anywhere? Priorities and Interests Revealed....
- **Excuse #2: (vs. 19)** The Excuse Of Reasonable Business, *“I cannot afford to come.”*
 - Is He Really More Interested in Testing The Oxen Than Going To The Supper?
 - Why Not Test Them After The Supper? Insulting To Choose These Before The Supper.
- **Excuse #3: (vs. 20)** The Excuse Of Willful Refusal, *“I will not come.”*
 - **Deuteronomy 24:5;** Seems Plausible, But Really Not Preventing Him!
- **Our Excuses Today:** *“I Don’t Have Time.” “I’m In School.” “I Am Working.”*
“We’re Always Doing Something.” “I’m Spending Time With Family.”

III. The Extent Of God’s Divine Love For Us (vs. 21-24).

- In The First Invitation, *“He invited (bade) many” (vs. 16).*
- The Context Is The Jews Who Didn’t Answer Jesus’ Invitation...
- The Second Invitation Was To The Poor, Maimed, Blind, And Lame **(vs.21).**
 - For Those More Receptive- **James 2:5; 1 Corinthians 1:26.**
 - The World Despises Them, But God Loves All!
- God Wants To Save Us All, But We Must Answer the Call....

All Things Are Ready, Come To The Feast!