



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

Aug 28, 2022

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Absence and Alarm!

There is a correlation, you know. When a Christian is absent from the worshipping assembly, there is cause for alarm.

“Why? Whose business is it?” says the absentee, *“If I want to miss, let me be – what does it hurt anyway?”*

Glad you asked the question. It hurts a lot!

First It hurts you. Fellowship of the saints in the presence of Christ is a stirring experience. Sharing exhilarating emotions with those who love the Lord as together you sing, pray, teach, commune and give is an uplifting exercise. What better could you do? The Bible states to absent yourself only if there is a matter to be straightened out with you and your brother, doesn't it? The assembly certainly takes priority over the ordinary life.

Secondly, you hurt those closest to you. Helpmate or children quit because you do. Your lack of zeal and interest telegraphs to them, *“CHURCH IS NOT IMPORTANT,”* They love you – you are the big one in their life. You thus take from the Lord instead of to Him, those you love most.

Thirdly, the relationship between absence and alarm is further heightened by the fact that the surest path to backsliding is absenteeism. There is more to being a Christian than attending services, but the attendance can never be minimized. It is a vital part of our duty.

Nothing is equal to the church of the Lord. To leave is to go downhill. Nothing is dearer than the duty to REMEMBER ME, Jesus demands it. Absence lets you remember self. Why would no one be alarmed when even one member is absent? He is selling short his opportunity—he's disobeying his Lord. Be certain about your attendance. When one is absent willfully, he is going the wrong way!

Turn around, brother, come home.

Jim Bill McInteer (1921-2010)

What You Do in the Church Pew Matters!

“You mind your business and I’ll mind mine.” That is the motto of many and I, for one, like it! The Bible teaches us not to be busy-bodies. At the same time, we need to remember that what we do has an impact on others for good or bad. One of the reasons that God has us to come together in an assembly is to provoke one another to “love and good works” and to exhort those around us (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

What you do in the church pew matters to the preacher. He shouldn’t assume that you are sleeping just because your eyes are always closed, or that you don’t care just because you don’t bring your Bible, or that you are not paying attention just because you play with the baby in front of you during the sermon. However, those who look at him and nod in agreement or disagreement with obvious interest, turn the pages of their Bibles and especially say “**Amen**” every now and then are much more encouraging! One preacher said it was like saying “*sic ’em to a bulldog!*” You can be a Eutychus when the preacher goes till midnight.

What you do in the church pew matters to your family. Mommies and daddies do good when they bring their children to Bible class and to worship. They do even better when they show them by example how to behave in worship. Over the years, an obvious pattern has manifested itself. Parents who don’t bring their Bibles and participate have children that don’t bring their Bibles and participate. Parents who don’t sing have children who just sit in the pew and don’t sing. Dads and moms who are distracted and disengaged from the worship have children who must constantly be entertained or disciplined. For those families, the pew is a boring bench that must be endured for an hour. Paul told us to “*bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (**Ephesians 6:4**).

What you do in the church pew matters to everyone else in the audience. You take a section of the audience that has many individuals who are timid about singing and place in their midst an individual or family that makes a joyful noise and just watch what happens! Zeal for the worship of God is contagious! Which assembly is more edifying; twenty souls with everyone participating to their fullest or one hundred souls with half just taking up space in the pew?

Most importantly, what I do in the church pew matters to God. “*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him*” (**John 4:23**).

Brent Smith
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