

EVERY SUNDAY! YOU'RE KIDDING

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

“And they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:41-42 and 47.

The thrill of knowing Christ, and learning more about Him, captivated the hearts and minds of believers in the early church days. As the gospel was preached thousands were saved, and great crowds gathered to learn, to take part, and carry out their new found faith. Enthusiasm was high, and the desire to be together was stronger than anything else. They loved the fellowship, and were challenged to their new way of life, and won thousands to Christ. These were baptized, and the church spread like glorious wild fire. How very different this was than the attitude of most church members today. Most know the church to which they belong, but are not faithful to it, and the responsibilities membership entails. Oh if we could only catch the thrill, and joy that early members felt, it would lead to great things for America. The Bible teaches that every true believer should join a good, fundamental, true to the Bible church, and make it the center of your earthly days. Many so foolishly think so many things to be more important than church.. The slightest conflict is moved to the center of our actions, and church will just have to wait. School, hobbies, sports, and family events all take precedence over church loyalty to many. If Christ dwells in you then it should be easy to decide where you should spend your time on Sunday, and Wednesday night too. I am afraid our sense of

values has slipped, and our love for Christ is far from proven. The world is so foolish when it comes to church. We pass a Flea Market sale location on our way to church. The traffic is unbelievable. Parking lots jammed and thousands saunter through the questionable bargains offered. I wonder how many of them belong to some church they are skipping on the Lord's Day? Many of us have some places or events we put before the Lord, and loyalty toward our church. We even talk about our absences with little sense of shame. How very sad our lack of loyalty has become. It doesn't appear we love Jesus and His church very much. Let's stop and ask why we should be in church every time the doors are open. What can we do to make our church and its meetings to be our number one priority? There are some good reasons why you should go to church. **(1). Go With The Anticipation Of Worshiping God:** *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt. 18:20.* Don't mechanically show up at church now and then, but realize you are going to meet with God. The Father is with us in a wonderful way when we meet with others who love Him. It must not be a habit which you learned in childhood days, but a desired fulfillment of your true walk with God. If you are in a good, solid, church, your pastor has a much prayed over message, that will thrill your heart. Just meeting with others reminds you that you are not alone as a believer, and the companionship with others of like faith will bless and encourage you. At church bring your burdens and praises to Him. Greet the strangers, learn their name, and make them feel welcome. Urge them to be back next Sunday, and check on them if not. The early church was eager to be in each others company, and to worship God together. A good place to worship God is in church. **(2). Go To Learn About God:** *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I have sworn and I will perform it,*

that I will keep thy righteous judgements.” Psa. 119: 105 & 106. There is no better place to grow in the faith than in a fundamental church. Many attend some churches for years, and don’t know they are saved. Listen to the preaching of the gospel and respond to the invitation, being sure of your salvation. God wants you to obey, and be baptized in obedience to His commands. Then by all means join, and become a part of the hungry throng seeking to know God better. There is so much about God that many Christians never learn. Take a notebook, and take notes to be reviewed later, and learn about the God with whom we will spend eternity. You, as a Christian, have many lifetime responsibilities that need to be learned. There is great strength and comfort in knowing God, and the best place to learn His will is at church. Spend time every week to love and please Him with others gathered around you doing the same. You will be encouraged and taught the will of God as you please Him by your faithful attendance, and support of your beloved church. Expect to hear from Him every time you attend. Encourage friends and neighbors to come with you, and your whole community will be blessed. **(3). Go To Fellowship And Serve God With Others.** *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For is we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”* Heb. 10: 24- 26. Part of our problem is the pressure of the worldly crowd around us which makes us feel so alone in the area of righteousness. We need time with others who face problems like us, and have found relief and victory, We can be encouraged and even be an encourager ourselves. The family of God needs to come together often, and share and care for others. There are so

many wonderful things we can do together to reach our community for Christ. You will never learn to serve until you gather with others and learn how. We need to challenge each other, and pray for each other in these last days on earth. **(4). Go To Influence Others By Your Life And Loyalty:** *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, foreasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.* I Cor. 15: 58. Sunday morning there was a spot on my steps where my mom ordered little Hal to sit until we left for church. I was taught church was first and your kids need to hear the same. Statistics show young people now are interested in church less than any generation. We must be much to blame as so many parents will skip church for most anything. Shame on you if you skip church for your sons ball game or whatever pushes God out of first place in your family. Every parent must be an example of church loyalty, or your faith will be questioned by youth around us. You cannot practice loyalty to God without demonstrating loyalty to church. **(5). Go To Be Ready For His Coming For His Church:** *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* I Thess. 4: 16& 17. We are certainly drawing near to the final last Tribulation days. Our world is truly turning away from God, and God loving church people had better get ready for the Rapture. He is coming with a shout to take His born again church people to glory. The teaching is clear. He is coming for His church. Be sure you are a member of it, and faithful to its responsibilities. All day Sunday be in church to worship the Lord on His day. **Neglecting the church is a vote to close it.**