

Early Churches

V L J J P T A C O B Z T T M E G F P A I
 L O A G O C W A Z K D S I N T R G U P C
 G X D B V T O B A A Y I I R O A K E F A
 V F S X E V W R A F T P O D L L H E T C
 P I H Q Y R C R I R O A E A R M Y U P S
 W P C A I U E U H N S N T K J A B B M O
 L F O J P J T A P C T I K J F R S E A F
 Q B I T O T A N L K A H O E L R L A V B
 N R T C S S U S E H P E M E W A L G S H
 Q A N P E M H X D Q F O F D S U V W M K
 I E A X F E T A A R R G Y U H C P U Y J
 T H Y A T I R A L T G N R C O M R Q R S
 I E E Y H V Z Z I P P E L X A X V O N O
 P S Y P I D U V H M J K E S M B B D A M
 L S C L W C I C P T V Q B H I U A R N A
 F O B L A O A N I A E C I D O A L K R G
 W L Y C Z T E U C Q B K D D E N U Q M R
 J O E E I P P I L I H P F R X D M K O E
 R C U A L Q K D T E T P F Z M F C Y S P
 O Q J V M T H E S S A L O N I C A K V X

Answers at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzle/EarlyChurches.htm>

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| Words to Find: | <i>Colosse</i> | <i>Laodicea</i> | <i>Sardis</i> |
| <i>Antioch</i> | <i>Corinth</i> | <i>Pergamos</i> | <i>Smyrna</i> |
| <i>Babylon</i> | <i>Ephesus</i> | <i>Philadelphia</i> | <i>Thessalonica</i> |
| <i>Berea</i> | <i>Galatia</i> | <i>Philippi</i> | <i>Thyatira</i> |
| | <i>Jerusalem</i> | <i>Rome</i> | <i>Troas</i> |

The Faithful Few

Chester Shuler

*In every church, in every clime,
 When there's some work to do,
 It's very likely to be done
 By just the "Faithful Few."*

*Many folks will help to sing,
 And some are glad to talk,
 But when it comes to doing things,
 A lot of them will balk.*

*"I can't do this, I can't do that;
 Excuse me, please, this time;
 I'd be so glad to help you out,
 But it's not in my line."*

*So, when the leader looks about
 For some who'll help to do,
 He nearly always has to go
 And ask the Faithful Few.*

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The **Bible View**



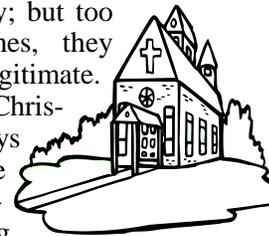

A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 169

When You Miss Church ...

Bill Brinkworth

All should go to church: saved and unsaved. An unsaved person will learn God's way to heaven and, hopefully, be saved. A saved person should go to church because God commands it (Hebrews 10:25); it is the place to learn about spiritual things; it is a place to serve God, and it is a place to receive spiritual encouragement.

Too many born-again people stay away from the house of God. Sometimes the excuses are legitimate, such as sickness or an emergency; but too many times, they are not legitimate. When a Christian stays



from attending services at the house of God, he can do damage to himself and to the cause of Christ. Some of negative impacts of his avoiding church include:

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Present in the Pew

Ralph Gilbert

A traveler in a European village discovered a beautiful custom. At night, she saw the people going to church, each carrying a little bronze lamp. These lamps they then placed in sockets by their pews. The soft light of the lamps was the only illumination for the service. If a member was absent, there was a dark space where they should have been.

We do not carry lamps to church, but we do send forth light. When we are absent, there is darkness in our stead. The more people there are at church, the greater the inspiration. Many small lamps together make a beautiful light.

The first Christian church in Jerusalem had no building. It had a small membership; it had no officers; it had no pastor; it had no wealth; it had no New Testament.

What made it a successful church? Just this: it had the total attendance of its membership. Its results lasted because they were continuing steadfastly with one accord in the Temple.

When You Miss ...

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- ❧ His lack of faithfulness to the house of God is a bad example to other believers and the unsaved. If his avoiding church is observed, others may justify their staying home as, "Well, if so-and-so doesn't go to church, why do I have to go?" The lack of attendance encourages others also to miss. Others observe our actions and reactions. We may be all of "Christ" many see. It is important to be a good testimony to others. We never know who is watching us.
- ❧ He will miss a blessing that God intended for him to help him through life. The day the believer stays home may be the day that God laid a special message on the pastor's heart that was desperately needed by the one that did not make it to church that day. Encouragement from the Word of God, taught in church, is the spiritual food a believer needs to make it

"Someone once said the difference between watching a sermon on television rather than going to church to hear it is the same difference as talking to a girl friend on the phone as opposed to taking her out on a date."

through life's trials.

- ❧ When a person stays home and misses church, he is showing God and others what is important in his life; and unfortunately, it may not be the things of God.
- ❧ A saved individual is born into the family of God. When he misses church, he is missing a "family" gathering. When any family does not spend time together, they grow apart. When a child of God misses church, he too, can grow apart from his spiritual family.
- ❧ A stay-at-home Christian is showing the unsaved world that church is not really important.
- ❧ When a believer stays home, it can discourage those that know he is gone, and also discourage the preacher.
- ❧ If a believer is involved in a ministry and misses church, others have to fill in the empty spot his absence has left. Most of the time, the ones picking up the slack are those that are already busy in their own ministries. They soon get tired of doing too much and get discouraged, all because a believer missed church.
- ❧ If a believer stays home, he often does not give to the cause of Christ for the time he missed. The money not given is needed to keep the ministry running. A church will suffer because all are

not giving their share.

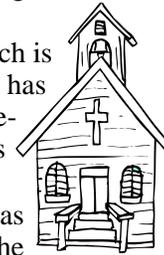
God went to a lot of trouble to have a local church for us to go to. He called a shepherd for the flock of believers. Many gave, so the church would have its doors open. Many sacrificed their time to minister to the needs of others. Avoiding church is missing what God intended for us to have. Be at church every time the doors are open. It is the right thing to do!

The Church is Right!

Donald Foster

Almost everyone has told us what is wrong with the church. I believe the church is right. As a church member I want to tell what I think, is right with the church.

- ❖ I think the church is right, because it has taught me about Jesus Christ and His crucifixion.
- ❖ My church has taught me about the Bible.
- ❖ My church has taught me what faith is.
- ❖ It has taught me how to pray.
- ❖ The church has taught me to appreciate all the good things, which have been showered upon me. In my youth, I believed that food, clothing and the luxuries of life were mine because I was alive. Now I know that God has given me these things because of His love. As a man, I want to know who has been good to me.



"The church has many critics, but no rivals!"

- ❖ The church has helped me find peace; so I am content in whatever state I may be.
- ❖ The church has continually influenced my life and always in the right direction.
- ❖ The church has given me real friends. When all other "friends" forsook me because material resources had dwindled away, the church continued to welcome me, and I believe, put just a little more warmth in their welcome than before.

As I look back, I see the many wonderful things it has done for others. There are countless thousands who have faith, hope, and life today, because of the church.

The Faithful Few

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*He knows full well they're busy too,
And always hard at work,
Yet he is sure they'll not refuse,
Nor any duty shirk.*

*They never stop to make excuse
But always try to do
The very, very best they can
To smooth the way for you.*

*God bless, I pray, the Faithful Few,
And may their tribe increase!
They must be very precious to
The blessed Prince of Peace.*