

Deuteronomy 6:5



Words to Find:
"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

I Know ...

Pastor Tommy Seay

I know I am saved:

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

1 John 5:13

I know I am eternally saved:

"For God so loved the world,

that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

I know I am saved the Bible way:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8

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The Bible View

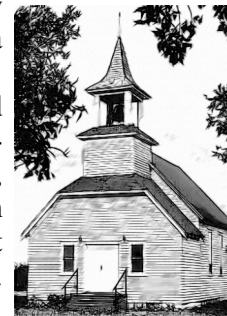



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It Used to Be Different

Bill Brinkworth

Too many stand at a ministry's sidelines and murmur, often to others, "Our church is not what it once was. We used to:



- ☞ "Have more in attendance on Sunday morning,
- ☞ "Have higher offerings,
- ☞ "Have many out soul-winning and a larger outreach to our community,
- ☞ "Have sermons that challenged and convicted me,
- ☞ "Have a larger children's ministry ..." or a host of other observations.

Although there may be some truth in what one sees in the ministry, a question needs to be asked. How were you involved in the different aspects of the ministry when things were "better", and how are you involved in the ministry now?

☞ Are you being faithful in your

church attendance? Do not criticize others when you are not faithful. It may be that your lack of faithfulness has caused others not to come.

☞ Perhaps you have even decreased or stopped your giving. How can you expect God to bless the church when you are not doing your best? It is not right to expect others to do something you are not doing.

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Are You A "Used-to-Be"?

Harry Todd

*As I go on visitation,
 People are telling me
 How they used to go to church,
 And what they used to be.*

*They say they were a teacher,
 And some were deacons too,
 Others played the organ,
 And ushers, there were few.*

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"Serving God is not a list of things to do — it is a way of life!"

It Used to Be Different

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☞ When was the last time you went out soul-winning or visited those that were sick and unable to attend church? Are you doing what the Lord requires of you in this area?

☞ Are others commenting on the “good preaching” or apparently being stirred by the preaching? If so, maybe you are not being blessed by the preaching because of a spiritual problem you are having. Maybe the problem is not the preaching, but iniquity you have harbored in your heart that is keeping you from being blessed by the preaching.

☞ Are you one of those that used to do something for the Lord and now are not, or were you only an observer then as you are now? Perhaps your lack of doing something when things were “better” only put a larger burden on those that attempted to do something for the Lord. Maybe they just wore out because of others’ lack of encouraging involvement!

It is easy to criticize what others are doing, but that type of activity usually discourages others and plants seeds of discontentment that others may harvest. Be a solution to any challenges your church may be facing now; get involved. If you are the only one still serving, then stay by the “plow”. Do not give

up. Do not be part of the problem; be part of the solution.

Are You A “Used-to-Be”?

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*Some used to drive a church bus,
Some sang in the choir, they’d say,
Some used to go on visitation,
And gave out tracts each day.*

*I’ve heard what they used to be,
And it made me wonder how
They could be active members,
But are doing nothing now.*

*And it made me wonder
If they were serving the Lord,
Or just active in the church
And finally just got bored.*

*Does God have a retirement plan?
Is His work just part time?
We’re chosen to be a soldier,
And should be on the battle line.*

*If you’re a soldier of Christ,
Put on the battle attire,
Let Him give the orders,
And when you should retire.*

*This battle is against Satan,
Until Jesus we see,
Are you busy serving the Lord,
Or just a “used-to-be”?*

I Know ...

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I know I am kept by the power of God:

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,” Eph. 1:13



I know the Lord will never leave me:

“... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5

I know the Lord will never give me more than I can bear:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Cor. 10:13

I know the Lord is going to take care of me:

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus:”
Philippians 4:19*

Why Should a Christian Go to Church?

Bill Brinkworth

No attendance at any church is the way to heaven, but attendance can be important for a Christian’s growth. If one is truly saved, one

should:

Wanna Go – The hungry born-again soul has a desire to be fed from the Word of God, as it is delivered by the preacher. It also desires fellowship with like-minded people.

*“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.”
Psalm 84:2 Also: Eph. 2:19*

Wanna Grow – Church is one of the most important places where a Christian can hear God’s Word, to find out how he can improve himself, obey God, and learn what God has for him to do.

“Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

Psalm 92:13

Wanna Obey – We are commanded to go.

“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.” Hebrews 10:25

Wanna Pray – Although it is not the only place a Christian can pray, it is a good place. *“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”*

Matthew 21:13

It makes one wonder when a person, who claims to be saved, does not want to attend a church and finds excuses for avoiding it. Not regularly attending church is contrary to Scripture.

“If the person you are complaining to cannot change the situation, chances are that the ‘complaining’ is gossip or sowing seeds of discord!”