

Monday
Spiritual Growth – Church Attendance

There are many benefits to being faithful in church attendance. We will study some of those benefits that are available only in the context of the local church. When God gives a command, it's always for His glory and our good. You can skip if you want, but you will really miss out on some great benefits!

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25 – Verses 19-21 give us two resources that are readily available to us due to our position in Christ. If you are saved, they are yours. If you're not, you cannot claim them. What is the first thing that is available to us in verse 19?
2. Remember, Hebrews is an application of Old Testament truth to New Testament people. There was only one person who was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, the High Priest, and he was allowed to go only once each year. How special is it for us to be able to enter into God's presence boldly and confidently?
3. According to verse 19, what is it that allows us to enter into His presence?
4. The veil in the Temple separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple. According to verse 20, what was broken that allowed us direct access to God the Father?
5. According to verse 21, what else do we have through our relationship with Christ?
6. The Old Testament High Priest was the one who would intercede to God for the people. Read I Timothy 2:5 – What does Christ, our High Priest, do for us now?

These are wonderful resources that God made available through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Head of the Church, and the resources in Him are the basis for our ability to have a local church and be involved there. Be there!

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1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25 – This passage is set up to teach us that since we have direct access to God through Jesus Christ and since He is our High Priest, we are to do three things. The resources that are available to us should motivate us to action. Each action begins with the words "Let us..." What three things should we do because of what we have in Jesus Christ?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Verse 24 tells us to consider one another to do what?
3. As members of the body of Christ, we should challenge one another to love and take greater steps of obedience. How can we do that?
4. According to verse 25, what else should we do?
5. How can we encourage each other?
6. These are important activities! What statement in verse 25 shows its importance?
7. Why do you think we should do those activities more as Christ's return gets closer?

It's hard to challenge and encourage others personally from a distance. Get to church!

Wednesday
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1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25 – Because of what is available to us in Jesus Christ, church attendance should be a high priority to us. It allows us to be able to challenge and encourage each other. There is another side to that. Along with challenging and encouraging others, you have the opportunity to be challenged and encouraged yourself. Why do you think it is so important to be challenged?
2. Why do you think it's so important to be encouraged?
3. There is always the possibility for us to grow complacent or apathetic. In what area do you need to be challenged?
4. There is always the possibility for us to grow discouraged under the pressures of life. In what area do you need to be encouraged?
5. When you pull a stick out of a fire, it is red hot and burning brightly. Before long, though, the fire stops, and the stick grows cold. It cannot burn by itself. The same is true with Christians. Can a Christian continue to burn brightly and fervently without being challenged and encouraged by others in the body of Christ?

The more sticks that are in the fire, the hotter and brighter it is. The more Christians that stay in the church regularly, the brighter it will shine in a dark world that needs Jesus Christ. It's to everyone's benefit to be in church every week!

Thursday
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1. Read Acts 2:41-47 – Acts records the history of the early church. In Acts 2 Peter preached, and about 3,000 people were saved and added to the church. The new Believers didn't waste any time getting connected and active in the early church. Verses 42-47 tell of their activities. Verse 42 tells us that they "continued stedfastly" in four specific activities. What are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. The people continued in the Apostles' doctrine. They came to church in order to be taught in the Scriptures. Could they have gotten that at home?
3. Even though we have much more available to us by way of TV and internet, it certainly isn't a substitute for personal attendance at church. One problem is the wide variety of false teaching available. Why is proper Bible teaching vital to the Christian life?
4. The next activity was fellowship. Obviously, you can't be with people and sharing the Christian life with others if you are home alone. Why is fellowship so important?

The benefits of church are only available at church. Don't miss it!

Friday
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1. Read Acts 2:41-47 – As the early church was growing and maturing, they were involved in many activities that helped them in their walk with the Lord. Receiving Bible teaching and fellowship were two of them. Another was participating in communion. Celebrating communion or the Lord's Supper has great significance. What does the bread and juice represent?
2. What benefit or benefits are there in remembering the death of Jesus Christ?
3. Communion is to be celebrated at church. How does this time have more significance when you are with the whole church?
4. Are the benefits and significance available to you if you stay home?
5. Another activity of the early church was corporate prayer. You obviously can't be involved in corporate prayer by yourself. What benefits can you think of for corporate prayer?
6. In our church Wednesday night when we focus on corporate prayer. What are the benefits to you and the benefits to others for you to be active in corporate prayer?

Communion and corporate prayer require others to be present in order to have all the benefits. Don't miss a week!

Saturday
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1. Read Psalm 122 – What made David glad in verse 1?
2. This psalm gives us some insights so that we too can be glad to go to church and actually enjoy it! David was glad to be going to the house of the Lord. What was the purpose for going there?
3. David didn't go there for self-gratification; he went there for God's sake. Many people go to church for what they can get out of it. How can that lead to a less-than-enjoyable experience?
4. Jerusalem was the location of the Temple. How did David describe Jerusalem in verse 3?
5. The people of Jerusalem were close. They had developed close, personal relationships with each other. How could having close, personal relationships with the people at church help to make it more enjoyable?
6. What did David wish for his brethren and companions' sake in verse 8?
7. David had a heart of concern for others. How can that help make church more enjoyable?

If you come to church for yourself, you'll be very disappointed! Get your attention off yourself and onto others.

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1. Read Psalm 122 – Church can be enjoyable! This psalm tells us how it can be. Getting your focus off yourself, developing close, personal relationships, and cultivating a heart of concern for the other members are some of the ways you can enjoy it better. According to verse 4, all the tribes of Israel were going up to Jerusalem to do what?
2. They all went together to be involved in the same activity. How could being involved in ministry with other Believers in the church make it more enjoyable to come?
3. What is one activity of our church in which you would like to participate?
4. Along the same lines, investing in the church will help you enjoy it more. Read Matthew 6:21 – According to this verse, where is your heart?
5. Money is one obvious thing you can invest in the church. What are some other things that you could invest in the church?
6. If you invest in the church, your heart will be there. How will that make you enjoy church more?

Be a part of what the church is doing. You will find very quickly that you are very interested in what is going on and enjoy it!