



The Good News

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When you “miss church”...

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All people should go to church services: saved and unsaved. An unsaved person will learn God's way to heaven and hopefully be saved. A saved person should go to church services 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, emergency, or being forced to work; but too many times they are not legitimate. When a Christian stays home from attending services at the house of God, he can do damage to himself and to the cause of Christ. Some of the negative impacts of his avoiding church services include:

- § His lack of faithfulness to the house of God is a bad example to other believers and the unsaved. If his avoiding church services 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 hear to help him through life. The day the believer stays home may be the day that God, through providence or some other means, laid a special message on the preacher's heart that was desperately needed by the one that did not make it to church services that day. Encouragement from the Word of God, taught in the gathering of the church, is spiritual food a believer needs to make it through life's trials.
- § When a person stays home and misses church services, 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 gathering together with the 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 services, he too can grow apart from his spiritual family.

- § A stay-at-home Christian is showing the unsaved world that worshipping with the 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 duty and misses services, 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 duties. They soon get tired of doing too much and get discouraged, all because a believer missed services.
- § 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.
- § When a believer, or non-believer, misses class services, they deprive themselves of an opportunity to learn more about God's word and they often show their lack of true desire for the “pure milk of the word” (1 Pet. 2:2). Being at Bible class can help people to learn not just what God's word says, but also how to apply it in their lives. Does anyone think that God approves of turning away from such valuable opportunities? And for what? The chance to sleep in for an extra hour on Sunday morning? The chance to make an extra hours' worth of money on Wednesday night? Is this how little our Lord and His word means to us?

God went to a lot of trouble to design the local church for us to have to attend. He calls preachers and elders for flocks of believers. Many give, so the church can have its doors open. Many sacrifice their time to minister to the needs of others. Avoiding church services (this includes Bible class!) is missing what God intended for us to have. Be at church services every time the doors are open. It is the right, and godly, thing to do.