



The Good News

June 9th, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 22

Why are we here?

By Matt Smith (fellow Christian), adapted by Michael McCleary

The weekend is a welcome thing in our society; it gives us a chance to do all the things that have needed to be done all week, a chance to get away from the office, spend time with our family and friends, relax ourselves and unwind from the work we've put in the past week. Sometimes, however, that relaxed approach carries over into our Sunday (and mid-week) services to God. This can be for any number of reasons, none of which are good enough to justify the lack of focus on God.

It has to start before we show up to the building; did we take the time necessary that morning/evening to put ourselves in the proper mindset to worship God, to serve Him? We prepare ourselves for work to get our jobs done and to do them well enough that our work is considered acceptable; do we take the same approach to our presence and our efforts during bible class and services? What do we wear to services? Is it whatever we happen to reach for in the closet that "no one will say anything about" or do we put as much thought into that attire as we might a business trip? "Sunday best" isn't just a tradition, it's a description of what people wear to church because Sunday is when the most important event during the week takes place. Do we view our attire with that in mind as well? Everyone can use another hour or two of sleep every day it seems, but are we dozing off during services? If we're that tired, perhaps we need to consider getting to bed a little earlier on Saturday. While we're here, are we thinking of other things? Are we really, completely focused on Him and on our worship of Him, or are we letting other things distract us?

Sometimes we let the little things get in the way of the big picture—seeing too many trees to

recognize the forest, in other words. We allow ourselves to let work or family relations or future plans or the game this afternoon or the game last night, creep into our thoughts. We let ourselves get away with doing less than we should in preparation for praising and worshiping Him. We let ourselves forget that it's not about us during this time, it's about God, and our efforts need to reflect that. It means being selfless, being devoted to doing things the way He wants them done, not the way we want to do them. The focus is to be squarely and fully on Him, His Word and His will for us.

Who is it we're worshipping, anyway? Do we so easily forget? If we only had one opportunity in our entire lives to worship God, would we approach that service differently than we do the one we attend every week? Why? Is He not still the same God who gave us life? The same God who has blessed us immeasurably during our lives here on earth? The same God who *made* the very earth upon which we spend our lives? The same God who, despite our utter unworthiness, decided to save our souls by giving His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins? Is He, of all beings, not worth the effort to prepare, and focus, to worship in only the most proper perspective? Is He not worth taking the time to get up a little earlier, clear our heads of everything else, and present ourselves in our best attire for *Him*, not for anyone else? Despite whatever difficulties we may encounter, we need to remember what we're doing when we attend services, and more importantly, for Whom we are doing these things...