

Why Should I go to Church

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9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

Psalms 119:9-11 NKJ

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 1:21-22 NKJ

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63 KJV

The Word of God is the bedrock of the Christian life.

Everything must be built on it.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matt 7:24-27 KJV

It provides the intellectual basis for all of our beliefs, and it shapes our understanding of our whole lives and all of creation.

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63 KJV

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

John 6:57-58 KJV

Notice the usage of the words spirit , life and eat

Word of God here is described by Jesus as “Spirit” and “life”, which if a man eats he will have life.

Knowing the Word of God is therefore very important and needs to play a vital role in the life of the believer.

19 Understand [this], my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear [a ready listener], slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry.

20 For man's anger does not promote the righteousness God [wishes and requires].

21 So get rid of all uncleanness and the rampant outgrowth of wickedness, and in a humble (gentle, modest) spirit receive and welcome the Word which implanted and rooted [in your hearts] contains the power to save your souls.

James 1:19-21 AMP

..... and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:21 KJV

James says, in the quote above, that the Christian should with meekness receive the Word into his heart, for this Word will “save”, or restore, heal or rejuvenate, our souls.

The continual consumption of the Word of God will shape us to be more and more like Christ.

This is a force that needs to be continually active in our lives.

There are methods we can use to accomplish this, but none is so effective as being in church

25 Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

Heb 10:25 AMP

25 Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Heb 10:25 TLB

25 not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

Heb 10:25 MSG

25 not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Heb 10:25 CJB

Word of God is substantial and complex, and the depth of it cannot be comprehended in a month or a year, but is the work of a lifetime.

Christianity is the only religion where you never stop growing, you never arrive

Notice the word CHURCH - It's not just the same without the U in it - CHRCH

You may not feel like it but YOU are important to the church

Why?

(1) Your attendance ministers to other people.

A lot of people don't think their attendance is all that important and they often don't feel like they are missed when they are absent.

But the reality is, you are.

The enemy of your soul is in the business of winning your soul back and will use whatever tactics he can use

One of them is attacking your self esteem is one of the ways he works

(2) Your attendance teaches the people that are around you about what your priorities are in life.

I've found that a large number Christian parents talk a lot about wanting their children to make God their number one priority, but then those same parents will show their priorities in relation to church.

So are they really teaching their kids to prioritize God?

Kids learn a lot more from what you say and do than what you just say.

When you say that God is your number one, but you lack faithfulness to the house of the Lord, your kids see that.

Christians with unbelieving spouses also need to take this into consideration. When wives are told to submit to their husbands, they are to do so "*as is fitting in the Lord*" (Col. 3:18).

Our relationships with our families and friends must always be subjected under the Lordship of Christ. That means that God's policies come before everyone else's policies.

- Our children are watching.
- Our spouses are watching.
- Our family members are watching.
- And our friends are watching.

Everyone is watching you as you follow Jesus, so what are you teaching then?

2 [No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody.

2 Corinthians 3:2 AMP

(3) You need to be strengthened by the preaching and teaching of the Word.

A couple of years ago one of our well known preachers made the statement something like "*we have taught our people how to shout and dance to the preaching, but we have failed to properly teach them*".

God has chosen to save people by the foolishness of preaching

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:21 KJV

But he has chosen to KEEP his people through teaching

9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 1:8 KJV

Some have this thought that once people become Christians, they no longer needed to hear the gospel or to be taught the Word.

One of the most important things that Christians need is consistent reflection on the gospel.

The apostle Paul actually told the Roman Christians that God “is able to strengthen you according to [the] gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ” (Rom. 16:25).

Did you catch that?

God strengthens you with the gospel and the preaching of Jesus.

Do you really believe that you do not need to be strengthened on a consistent basis?

Not only are you strengthened explicitly through the message, you also experience God’s presence in a powerful way when His people gather together.

There is also this thought

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

2 Peter 3:1-2 KJV

(4) Scripture teaches that Christians are to gather together for the specific purpose of worship and ministry.

This may seem cliché, but God actually commands that you don’t neglect public worship.

The writer of Hebrews says that Christians should “*consider how to stir up one another to love and good works*” and then adds that those same Christians should “*not [be found] neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*” (Heb. 10:24-25).

Look at that closely. The Christian who takes God’s Word seriously (is there any other type of true Christian?) will notice that the writer of Hebrews noted that there were some who neglected the gathering together of the Church, but that Christians should not neglect those gatherings.

Rather, they should be encouraging one another and, as the previous verse states, be found doing their best to stir each other up to love more and to participate in more of the good works of the Kingdom of God.

But it doesn’t stop there.

The writer attaches this way of living to the expectation of future judgment.

Yes, you are supposed to attend public worship and participate in encouraging others because God's judgment is coming.

How do we know that the "Day" of v. 25 refers to judgment? Simple, read verses 26-31.

If you truly have been born again then there is a deep desire in your heart to worship God and to fellowship with other believers and to live a life shaped by Scripture and the on-going walk in the Spirit.

Sometimes we just need reminders of these great things! Our pure minds stirred up by the way of remembrance as Paul said