

What Are People Looking For In A Church?

by Bill Crews

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wonder what God wants of them. The lives they are to live individually, the organizational arrangement they are to have, the doctrine they are to teach, the collective worship they are to engage in, the collective work they are to do are all clearly defined in the New Testament.

Some Suggestions

1. Look for a church that respects the sovereignty of God and the authority of Jesus, the Son of God. Ephesians 3:20-21; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 3:17.
2. Look for a church that respects the Bible as the inspired word of God, and the gospel of Christ as the power of God unto salvation. 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 1:16; 2 Peter 1:3.
3. Look for a church that strives to be like the churches you can read about in the New Testament – in name or designation, in worship, in organization, in teaching, in work. Acts 2:42; 14:23; Philippians 1:1; Romans 16:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Ephesians 5:19.
4. Look for a church that is concerned about lost souls and eternal destinies. Acts 8:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8; Philippians 1:3-5; 4:15-18.
5. Look for a church that ministers to the spiritual needs of men. 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18.

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Seven Days of Thanksgiving

by Wayne Goff

Day 1: The creature comforts of life. Monday is my “day off,” so I enjoy sleeping in a warm, comfortable bed, arising to a comfortable shower, clean clothes, a hot cup of coffee and a good book to read. I am thankful to God for these things because He has given them to man, Eccl. 5:19-20.

Day 2: Divine revelation. As I sit in my office preparing Bible class lessons, sermons, and bulletin articles, I cannot imagine doing so without the fully inspired Word of God! It directs my thoughts, my teaching, and my footsteps, Jer. 10:23.

Day 3: Teachers. Our Bible class teachers are hard at work teaching the various classes of all ages. I don't always take time to appreciate them like I should, but today is Wednesday, we have Bible class tonight, and I will enjoy knowing that we have capable teachers at every level doing their best to impress the minds of their students with God's Word, 1 Cor. 12:26, 29.

Day 4: Thanksgiving Day. I am grateful that I live in a nation that sets aside one day per year to give thanks to the God “In Whom We Trust.” Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom to live life as I see fit are great blessings. God is behind it all, Rom. 13:1. I am additionally grateful for my family who will gather around our well-prepared dinner table.

Day 5: Holidays. Friday after Thanksgiving is considered a continuation of the holiday. “**Black Friday**” is the beginning of the buying season for Christmas. While wives and mothers rush out to shop for the holiday, many of the men sit back, relax, and enjoy a good football game or two. This day is enjoyed **most** by those who work **hardest**. Days to relax and “recreate” are few and far between. Americans need to learn to enjoy life more. It will end all too soon. As for “*gifts*,” God is the best Giver of all, James 1:17.

Day 6: Spiritually-renewed mind. While others may repeat the activities of Day 5 above, I am setting my heart and mind on the lessons to be presented on Sunday. I may find some time to relax a bit, but even then in the back of my mind are the lessons to be presented. I am so grateful that I have been able to study God's Word, learn it, absorb it **294803**

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