

The Importance of Attendance

by Wayne Goff

The month of June has been filled with brethren going on vacation all over the country and continent — myself included. There is a real need for a period of rest, relaxation and recreation from the constant drudgery of everyday life. We Americans have become workaholics on the one hand, or lazy parasites on the other — there doesn't seem to be much in between. So a period of rest is essential to the workers and the parasites take off the summer!

Jesus could be labeled a workaholic, but then again He did all His public work in a small window of 3 1/2 years! Multitudes followed Jesus for healing, for food, for other miracles, and yes, for teaching. Mark 6:31 records Jesus saying to the Twelve, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat." Truly Jesus and His assistants needed a little rest and relaxation.

We have many families here who work to earn a living, work to raise their children, and then work to help do the work of the Lord in the church. Naturally, they need time to be alone in a deserted place to rest.

Just the same, the work of the Lord in the local church must go on. Someone must continue the classes, the song leading, the preaching and teaching, and the caring for those in need. Be sure that you are faithful in your attendance when not on vacation! The work of the church depends on you. We know that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25), but some do it anyway. Shame on the shirkers who need to become workers!

"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). What a powerful passage teaching the importance of each and every member doing his/her part! If everyone does their fair share, then the load for the whole is lessened. The local church needs everyone to be faithful, loyal, reliable and dependable. It is just sad to me that there have always been "the faithful few" in local churches that wear themselves out to do the work of the majority. Dear reader, if you see yourself in this article, and you need to step up your service to the Lord, won't you do so today?

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