

## A 50-Year-Old Decision

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by Gus Nichols

People do not accidentally attend worship without missing one worship service for twenty years. They must have planned always to attend. Soon after I obeyed the gospel in the fall of 1909, I read of an old brother who had not missed going to worship a single Sunday in 41 years. That story caused me to resolve and to purpose in my heart that I would never miss the worship on a single Lord's Day as long as I lived, if possible to attend. I have missed four Sundays in over fifty years, and then it was because of illness.

Once I made that decision, the question has not come up as to whether I would attend church services or not. In fact, I did not decide last Lord's Day to go to worship, nor the Sunday before. That decision was made more than fifty years ago.

It is a sin for any member of the church to miss the worship unless he is unable to attend. The very nature of our religion is such that those who feel this is a burden need to be converted.

## Eased or Burdened?

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by Wayne Goff

***“For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality”*** (2 Cor. 8:13-14).

Each member of the church has a God-given responsibility which is to be faithfully discharged to God and in support of one another. When we fail to discharge our duty, then we are causing others to be burdened as they attempt to take up the slack.

Likewise, when those who are burdened down by sickness, sin, and other unavoidable matters, then it is the duty of others to pick up their slack until they can return to their normal activities.

When you decide to miss a service, or not study a Bible class lesson, or not fulfill your duty to the church in a myriad of ways -- do you ever stop to think that you are now **burdening** everyone else? I know that you do not intend to do so, but since the church is a *“body,”* if every part (member) of that body is not doing its job, then that puts a *“burden”* (stress) on every other member to make up the difference. This is true both with our physical body and the spiritual body.

For the local church to be successful over a long period of time, each member has to do his job faithfully. “Burn out” occurs when too few do too much for too long! Instead, God's Will is that there be equality in the distribution of work.

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