

“Do I Have To Be There?”

By Mike Riley

Regarding church attendance, this writer questions why any faithful child of God would ever ask such a question as “Do I have to be there?” in the first place. Unless there is a compelling reason that prohibits attendance, where else and with whom else would a child of God want to be than with the saints? (cf. Acts 2:42; Romans 12:9-10; Romans 15:30-32).

The Services “feed the church of God” (Acts 20:28 KJV), and that “feeding” involves providing the necessary teaching to bring them to spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13). Thus, when a day and a time are set for the church to assemble, the church should assemble to be spiritually fed.

From the well-known passage of Hebrews 10:23-25, we read: Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another to stir up love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Willful absence from any assembly of the congregation of which we are a member serves to discourage those who do attend. That is why the Hebrew writer said, “And let us consider one another to stir up love and good works.” Let’s ask ourselves, “How does my personal, willful absence from any service that I could have attended indicate that I am thinking about anyone but myself?” Having said that, how does our “staying home” help us get to heaven, which should be our primary goal? In what way does our staying home, when we honestly and truly could have been at the worship service, serve to “stimulate” our brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good works?

Philippians 2:3-8 exhorts us to do the following: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

After reading and studying the above passages in context, this writer cannot imagine any child of God asking, “Do I have to be there?” Dear fellow saint, can you imagine it?



STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

11/23/25

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Paul Simpson **Opening prayer-** Rick Cook

Communion- Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer-** Gary Harris

Sermon- Don DeLukie

Next Sunday

Announcements- Travis Rogers **Opening prayer-** David Reppond

Communion- John Chisley **Closing Prayer-** Lyle Russell

Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

—**There will not be a Wednesday Evening Bible Class this week due to Thanksgiving.**

—**Gospel Meetings:** Check the bulletin board in the foyer for local events and Gospel Meetings happening in our area.

—**Christmas Program and Potluck:** Our yearly Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 14th. There will also be a Potluck preceding the program. More details to come, but mark your calendars! There will be no PM Services that evening.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Scan the QR
code to visit
our website.



Please Pray For:

Mandy Purum, Jo Ellan Haltom, Emilia Gillikin, Sherrie Burgess, Ronnie Stutts, John Swayzer, Mary Wyatt, Shayna & Makiah Smith, , Markeeta Evert, Katherine Simmons, Lavenia Freeman, Terry Smith Atwood, Shirley Taylor, Kris McKoin, Debbie Bright Chunn, Lester Pinkard, Charles Matheny, Rhonda Rogers, Gavin McDaniel.

Bereaved: Family of Barbara Burke, Carla Owen, Larry White.

Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Joyce Moses, Pam Few, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garriss, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



November Birthdays

3 - Elaine Reppond
3 - Mesha Thomas
5 - Glenda Wells
8 - Brad Smith
9 - Raelyn Freeman
9 - Sydney Rogers
11 - Tommy Wells
13 - Susie McGough
20 - Dana Fowler
30 - Ayden Richardson

November Anniversaries

17 - Buddy & Carlon Hollis
18 - Randy & Kathy Manning
21 - Travis & Rhonda Rogers

