

Most of society agrees . . .

Attendance is vastly overrated

- ▶ Lesson 1, **mandate**: what does God want?
- ▶ Lesson 2, **motivation**: what do I want?

Why Are You So
Strict About Attendance? (II)

I. Absence Is Unholy Longing

Num.11:4

- **Craving** intense, strong
- **Complaining** to get it
- **Charging** God / Moses falsely

Strong passion led to wrong . . .

1. Choices. Lk.10:38-42
2. Commitment. Jn.2:24
3. Consequences. Josh.24:15

I. Absence Is Unholy Longing

**II. Attendance Is Holy Longing
(Principles + Attitude)**

Hunger & thirst, Mt.5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby – 1 Pt.2:2

- 'How much do I have to eat?'

True treasure, Mt.6:19-21

¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Overtime work
- Career

First things first, Mt.6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- ❑ Weekending [mobility; money; time]
 - ❑ Does it stop being Lord's Day when I travel?
- ❑ Travel – some plan ahead.

Influence, Mt.18:6

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

- ❑ Vacations may undo parental training
- ❑ Localized 'god'

Worship, John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Worship or Woods?

Love, John 14:15

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- Closed by state?
- Conceded by church?

The example, Acts 20:7

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

What could have kept Paul away?

The spiritual mind, Romans 8:4-6

⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Carnal mind forgets God

Lord's supper, 1 Co.10:16

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

What else do I have to do?

No offense, 1 Co.10:32

Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God

Others are watching me!

Spiritual growth, 1 Co.14:3

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men

- ❑ Nothing more exciting than . . .
 - ❑ Learning new things
 - ❑ Being reminded of old things

Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old” – Mt.13:52

Always abounding, 1 Co.15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

☐ Why stay in doubt? Jn.20:24-29

It's about time, Eph.5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

What is better use of my time?

assembling

or

??

Consistency is the key, Eph.6:1-4

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

❑ What are they learning from us?

We are the only Bible, Ph.2:15

That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

☐ We are the only Bible the careless world will read

Head orders members, Col.1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church. who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence.

- Head controls body
- He is preeminent – ‘have the highest rank in a group, be first’
- How do we respond?

Incentive, Col.3:1-3

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- What do we get out of it?
- Seminars

Abundant growth / love, 2 Th.1:3

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.

□ How to know if one is abounding...?

Neglect, Hb.2:3

...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

How to know if one is growing...?

Stunted growth, Hb.5:12-14

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Faith? Hope? Love? Hb.10:26-32

- Faith assures, 22
- Hope holds on, 23
- Love seeks God, 24-25

Choices, Hb.10:28-29

²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Reject: ignore, not recognize, vs FAITH

Crippled, Hb.13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

☐ Crippled team

Faithful? Ja.4:17

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- Car
- Paper
- Water heater

Holy motivation, Ps.122:1

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

- ❑ Before the cross
- ❑ Overjoyed at prospect of going to Lord's house
 - ❑ Ps.84:1-2, 10
 - ❑ 1 Jn.4:19