

is hoping you and your families have had a wonderful time together. Hopefully you have found encouragement in the service of the Lord.

“Don’t pray when it rains if you do not pray when the sun shines.”



DECEMBER 26, 2010

"PLEASE KNOCK ON MY DOOR!"
by Dick Cupp

Have you ever hesitated knocking on someone’s door, afraid that those inside don’t want to hear anything about the gospel of Christ? Let me tell you of a young man who would have given a great deal just to have some Christian knock on his door earlier in his life. This young man was born in Indiana in 1931. He entered high school in 1944. and moved with his family to California the following year. His parents had no religious affiliation.

He returned to Indiana in 1954 and dated a girl who was a member of the church of Christ. Through her efforts, he was baptized early in 1956, while with the Army in Kaiserslautern, Germany, after studying a Bible correspondence course.

Today, that same man is a minister of the gospel of Christ in Dayton, Ohio. But he remembers with sadness that when he was 25 years old, no one had ever knocked on his door offering the pure gospel of Christ.

This man remembers being religiously minded, even as a young boy. He remembers keenly his desire to "go to church" in California, but being too shy to go without receiving an invitation. He is now acutely aware of how deeply his Christian life and his preaching would have been enhanced if only someone had knocked on his door at age 15, rather than age 25. He also remembers that in his early years he didn’t make much distinction between the various religious groups. He very likely would have accepted

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 66216
913-631-6519

Send a Copy to a Friend

Evangelist:
Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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an invitation from any denomination that cared enough about him to ask him to come. He may very well have been a denominational preacher, teaching false doctrine today, if the denominations had knocked at this door.

But he is a very lucky man. Nobody knocked on his door. He finally learned the truth, and became a New Testament Christian. He's thankful that no denominations knocked on his door but he wishes SOMEBODY had! He wishes mightily that a member of the Lord's church could have talked to him at least 10 years before they did. What a difference that would have made in his qualifications and in his Christian fruitfulness today!

I can speak of this man freely, because I am the man. I am so grateful to those who had a part in my conversion but I so mightily wish that SOMEONE would have taken advantage of many earlier opportunities to at least TALK to me about the gospel of Christ. Don't hesitate to knock on doors! Much of your knocking will be in vain; but somewhere there is a man, or woman, or a family, just waiting for you to knock on the door and invite them to come to Christ!

Being Late: The Problem Defined

There is a continual problem with some church members who are late to the services. If you are in that number, it is possible that you have never considered how serious this situation is. Think about what happens when you are late:

When you are late, the hectic rush to get here without being any later leaves you in a totally wrong frame of mind to enter into worship. Frayed nerves are not conducive to spiritual meditation.

You miss the opportunity to greet the brethren and to be greeted by them, thus missing out on the encouragement that comes in this way.

You are unable to welcome visitors to the services. Therefore you are failing to do your work in this regard, and are leaving this essential job to others.

Your late entrance is disruptive to good order, and is disturbing to others who have carefully planned to arrive on time.

In simplest terms, you miss out on part of the worship service, and that's what we

came together for in the first place. If you miss a verse of a song, or an entire song, or a song and a prayer, etc., you have simply missed an important part of our worship to God. And if you miss the first several minutes of a Bible class, you miss out on some vital discussion and may not be able to "catch up" with the class at all.

Being Late: Breaking the Habit

We pointed out some of the problems that result from church members getting in the habit of arriving late for the services. These include:

- not being in the right frame of mind for worship
- missing the opportunity to greet and be greeted by your brethren
- failing to welcome our visitors
- disrupting the services, and
- missing out on important parts of our worship and Bible studies.

What is the solution to this serious problem? Here are some suggestions:

Realize that being late to worship services and Bible studies becomes a habit. Everyone is late occasionally, due to unavoidable circumstances. But there are some who are always late, and this indicates that an habitual pattern has been established.

Apply conscious effort to break this habit. Force yourself to begin preparing to leave for the services earlier than you have been.

Don't try to arrive exactly at the starting time. Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early. Then if something goes wrong, you can still be on time.

Consider what it would be like if every member followed the same late pattern that you follow. Realizing the disastrous results this would bring, you should then see the obligation you have to do better.

Finally, get in the habit of being early. After you have done this for a while, and as you enjoy the benefits of welcoming visitors, greeting brethren, and being able to sit down without all the rush, ready to join into the whole worship service, then you will see that you never want to be late again. **by Greg Gwin**

By the time you read this you will have already enjoyed your Christmas Holiday. Here