

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. John 8:32

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Do I HAVE to Attend Evening Services?

Mike Thomas | Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA

"Oh what a weariness!" This was the attitude of the Jews who lost interest in worshipping God, as described in **Malachi 1:13**. They had grown tired of gathering for the scheduled feasts and sacrifices and were uninterested in applying themselves to genuine worship. *"Oh, what a weariness"* it was for them to take time out of their busy schedules to meet this necessary obligation to God. Worship wasn't just a chore; it was an interference. They saw no real purpose in centering their lives around it, much less in giving more than they had to. The same verse also says, *"And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?"* Instead of their worship being a joyous event in their relationship with God, these Jews viewed it as a wearisome task and necessary burden. "I'm doing this because I have to, not because I want to" is another way of describing their attitude.

Have we also grown cold in our love and appreciation for God? Do we no longer see Him as the One who has given us life—in a world filled with beauty and joyous moments? Have we forgotten His great love for us in providing salvation for us through His Son? What about attending Sunday evening services? Is our attitude "do I have to" and "we're only required to worship once on Sundays"? Or do we have a spirit of gratitude for the privilege and opportunity to have one more time together as brethren to build each other up and glorify God? Remember, God wants us to view public worship as a blessing. *"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching"* (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

I realize the number of services is a matter of judgment.

And I also believe it is possible for faithful brethren to decide it is best for their situation to forego an evening service. Who am I to "judge" a group for that decision (**Romans 14:10**)? That's between them and God. However, if we have the opportunity to assemble at a scheduled service, why would we NOT want to meet? Are we so caught up in life that the thought of glorifying God is no longer appealing? Could it be we have lost sight of our purpose in life and have hardened our hearts to all He has done for us? That is the warning given us when looking back at unfaithful Israel. *"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God...lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"* (**Hebrews 3:12-13**).

Elton Dilbeck asked some very good questions regarding our attitude toward the church in "Which Disturbs You the Most?"

- A soul lost in hell or a scratch on your new car?
- A sermon ten minutes too long or lunch a half-hour late?
- Your missing the worship or missing a day's work?
- The church not growing or the garden not growing?
- Your Bible being unopened or your newspaper being unread?
- Contribution decreasing or your income decreasing?
- Your children late to Bible Class or late to school?
- Missing Bible class or missing your favorite TV program?
- Church work neglected or housework neglected?

- Low attendance at worship or low attendance at a party?

These are soul-searching thoughts that should get us to see how we truly view the church and its assemblies. What matters most to us – this earthly life or the eternal life to come? Which has our highest affection? Honestly, if we have the ability to assemble one more time on Sunday, to honor God “in spirit and truth,” why would we not want to be there? Is He deserving of our finest efforts and sacrifices? Or is it a “weariness” to give Him a little bit more?

Let me add:

Staying home to be with visiting family

Get a head start on a long trip by leaving after morning services

Standing for nothing has consequences

I remember hearing a lyric to a song on the radio that went, ***“If you stand for nothing, you will fall for everything.”*** This line immediately made me think of what the apostle Paul told the brethren at Ephesus, ***“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive.”*** (Eph. 4:14).

Who likes to be deceived, especially when it comes to Biblical teaching? The sad reality is, many people are deceived, and we need to do everything we can to prevent that from happening. But the question we have is, how can we prevent it from happening? The Lord has provided many helps, but we will just focus on the ones we find in the verse we just quoted by Paul.

First: Grow up

The first thing the apostle told the saints was, ***“be not children”***. God’s people need to grow up, meaning they need to increase their faith (II Pet. 3:18). Even though Christians are God’s children, in this text, it is talking about maturity. Those who never get grounded will remain a babe and as such, are vulnerable, not being able to discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:13-14). The goal of every convert ought to be to desire the milk as a babe, but get off the milk and onto the meat as soon as possible (Heb. 5:12).

Second: Don’t believe everything you hear

The Ephesian church was told not to be carried away with every wind of doctrine. It’s one thing to be trusting, it’s another matter when it is done to a fault. God’s people are commanded to test the spirits to see whether they are of God (I Jn. 4:1). There shouldn’t be a tossing about, going back and forth, when there is only the doctrine of Christ (II Jn. 9). There are many teachings that sound Biblical, but they don’t have a scripture to stand on. When people say things like, “Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace” or “Cleanliness is next to godliness” and “Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and you will be saved”, they are words that sound scriptural, but they are not.

Third: Remember that religious teachers are just men

Again, in Ephesians 4:14, Paul stated that saints were not to be tossed about by the trickery and cunning craftiness of men. Such people often get away with what they do because people hold them up above others. To give anyone a blind allegiance is a recipe for disaster. Just because someone says they are a teacher of God’s word; he must be held to the standard – the word of God (I Pet. 4:11). The mere fact that Paul told these brethren not to fall for their teachings, is proof that such men can be opposed – regardless of their position. Even the apostle Peter couldn’t rest on the fact he was an apostle, when Paul rebuked him for his sinful behavior (Gal. 2:11). Men might want to be elevated, but if we allow that to happen, the fault is ours.

Fourth: Know that you can have victory

The mere fact that these brethren were given instructions as to what they should not allow, is evidence that it can be prevented. Why tell someone not to be tossed about, if it has to happen? Falling away doesn’t have to happen. As Jesus pointed out, we can know the truth and the truth will set us free (Jn. 8:32). Truth be known, if someone is teaching error, you can correct them (Acts 18:26-28), and if they don’t change, you can walk away from them. Remember, we can resist the devil (Jas. 4:7). Let us all heed these words in Ephesians 4:14, and not be children and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

Chuck Bartlett

Types and Antitypes—Moses as a Type of Christ
God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadow in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

Moses is one of the most prolific names in the Bible. His name appears over 700 times in the Old Testament, and he is mentioned more times in the New Testament than any other Old Testament character (80). His life is a type of Christ.

MOSES - Type

JESUS THE CHRIST - Antitype

Pharaoh tried to kill Moses as an infant (**Ex. 2:2-10**)

Herod tried to kill Jesus as an infant (**Matt. 2:14-16**)

Moses - Fasted for 40 days (**Ex. 24:38**)

Jesus - Fasted for forty days (**Matt. 4:2**)

Moses - Parted the Red Sea (**Ex. 14:21**)

Jesus - Stilled the Sea of Galilee (**Matt. 8:26**)

Moses - Fed a multitude (**Ex. 16:1-24**)

Jesus - Fed the 5,000 (**Matt. 14:13-21**)

and the 4,000 (**Matt. 15:29-39**)

Moses - Endured criticism and murmuring (**Ex. 15:24**)

Jesus - Endured criticism and murmuring (**Mark 7:1-8**)

Moses - Discredited at home (**Num. 12:1**)

Jesus - Discredited at home (**Mark 6:4; John 7:5**)

Moses - Appointed seventy elders (**Num. 11:16-17**)

Jesus - Appointed 70 helpers (**Luke 10:1**)

Established a memorial (**Ex. 12:1-31**)

Established a memorial (**I Cor. 11:17-34**)

Appeared after death (**Matt. 17:3**)

Appeared after death (**Acts 1:3; I Cor. 15:1-11**)

Moses - Mediator of the Old Covenant (**Ex. 24:6-8**)

Jesus - Mediator of the New Covenant (**Heb. 9:15-22**)

Moses - Extended God's invitation of salvation from the snake bite (**Num. 21:9**)

Extended God's invitation of salvation from sin (**Matt. 11:28-30**)

(author unknown) Sent by J.D. Tant Jr.

Faith is Obedient

Josh. 6-7 - The siege and conquest of Jericho must have initially seemed quite odd to the Canaanites within the city. "What's up with these Israelites who come out every day and march around the city?" We have already been told repeatedly that the inhabitants of the land were afraid and disheartened because they had heard of the great miracles God was performing for His people (**Josh. 2:9-11, 24; 5:1**). So, the men of Jericho were afraid of what they were seeing, curious though it was. Perhaps even more so, this strategy must have seemed quite odd to God's people. "March around the city and keep quiet except for seven priests blowing rams' horns, once per day for six days? Then, seven times on day seven? Wait for the signal, then shout? The walls will fall down? OK. If You say so..."

And the walls fell flat.

Would they have fallen if Israel had only circled the city for six days instead of seven? Would they have fallen if there were only three priests instead of seven? Would they have fallen if the armed men were all behind the ark, instead of arranged in a forward guard and a rear guard? Would they have fallen if the men didn't shout? Would they have fallen if the soldiers weren't quiet on one day when marching around the city? Would they have fallen if, on day seven, they only marched four times around? Would they have fallen if they didn't believe God would make them fall?

Would God have acted had they not obeyed? In the ensuing story (**Josh. 7**), Achan disobeyed and God did not act. That should answer the question.

God acted on behalf of His people when they obeyed because of their trust in Him. It's how grace and faith worked then. It's how grace and faith works now. Don't be fooled by anyone who tells you that what we do doesn't matter. That's never been God's way. Everything matters. And faith obeys.

Russ Bowman

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen. (**Romans 16:25-27**)*

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10