

A THOUGHT

Eric Reynolds

A friend of mine posted yesterday about receiving a safety packet from the gas company that included a scratch-and-sniff sticker to help people recognize the odor of leaking natural gas. Knowing it would smell terrible, he sniffed it anyway to be sure. Then he wondered why: why do we just have to find out for ourselves, even when we know it is bad?

This morning I saw a headline on Yahoo, a response from some actress to criticism of her clothing: "If you're so offended, why do you look?" Well, she has a point.

One can hardly feign shock—or offense, for that matter—when the label tells you exactly what you'll find. The uncomfortable reality is that we subject ourselves to offensive things because we want to.

When it comes to avoiding temptation, denying oneself is a daily struggle that often requires saying "no" to curiosity. -

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES.....7:00



- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." —Acts 17:11

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GOD'S NEGATIVE PROMISES

Michael Pickford

We often focus on the positive promises of God. And rightly so. Our faithfulness to Him depends on meditating on His promises of hope, and love, and security, and answered prayers, and eternal life. But he has also given many negative promises, and forgetting about them could weaken our resolve when it comes to serving Him faithfully until the end. In this article, let's remind ourselves about some of those negative promises of God.

-Jesus has promised not to recognize those who do not do His Father's will:

If we violate the authority of the Lord, and practice things not found in the New testament, Jesus will deny knowing us. (Matthew 7:21-23; Colossians 3:17; 2 John 1:9)

-Jesus has promised severe consequences for those who cause others to sin:

When someone sins they do so from their own free will. But, if I did something to tempt them to commit that sin, God holds me responsible as well, and the punishment is severe. (Matthew 18:6; 1 Corinthians 8:13).

-Jesus has promised that if we act ashamed of Him here, then he will be ashamed of us on judgment day: Are there times when you feel "awkward" about someone else knowing you are a member of the Lord's church? Do you ever feel awkward about talking to others about the Bible? Be careful! Mark 8:38.

-We are promised that those who do not obey the Gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction: Eternal punishment that never ends. What a thought! This is the destiny of those who do not obey the Gospel initially, and of those who do not continue to obey the Gospel. We must not forget it! (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

-God has promised that those who do not live their lives according to His strict moral standards cannot enter heaven: Many Christians seem to want to walk the line when it comes to morality. But God is strict. We need to be very careful about the way we act, the way we dress, and the way we talk. We do not want to be denied the ultimate prize of heaven!. ☺

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Attendance

Weekly Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:25

Introduction: All throughout the Bible from the very beginning we find people worshipping God on an individual level. God certainly desires this (1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13). But God doesn't want it to be limited to individual worship. God wants us coming together to worship with His people. With other Christians. In fact, he has commanded us, "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 10:25). Inconsistent attendance of church members makes for a weak church. This week, let's focus our attention on the benefits gained by coming together with other Christians in order to worship God.

Monday: We must attend in order to give the more earnest heed.

1. Hebrews 2:1-2: What can happen should we fail to give the more earnest heed? What does "Earnest" mean? Could this word describe your attendance?
2. Hebrews 4:11; 2 Peter 1:10: What must we do in order to enter heaven? If we regularly miss services, does this say to others that we are "diligent?" Do you think it pleases God when you are not in attendance when you could have been?

Tuesday: Attending faithfully makes us stronger.

1. 1 Corinthians 16:13: What are Christians told to be?
2. Ephesians 4:11-16: List at least four reasons why God set up evangelists, teachers, etc in the local church? Think of the opposites of these four things. Should we not be present for the assemblies and bible classes in order to fully attain to these four things? Would God want us to fully attain to these things, or would just a partial developing of them please Him?

Wednesday: Attending faithfully expresses love and consideration for our brethren.

1. Hebrews 10:24-25: If we "consider one another" by being in attendance, what is it when we miss? In the assemblies we exhort one another. If My pew is empty during a bible class or worship service, and it is found out that it was empty because I was doing something that should not have taken precedence over services, does that encourage or discourage my brethren?

Thursday: Attending Faithfully sets a good example.

1. Matthew 5:16-18: If I am not in attendance when I could have been, am I letting my light shine as brightly as I could be? What

about those in the world who may have known that I missed services for an event, etc. What message does that send them about where my true devotion is? What about my example in relation to my children. Am I showing them that obeying God (Hebrews 10:25) is more important than anything else?

2. 2 Corinthians 3:2: What does this verse say about us in relation to "all men?"

Friday: Attending faithfully sends the message that I am seeking first the kingdom of God..

1. Matthew 6:33: No one else sees your answers to these questions. Be completely honest with yourself. Is it really seeking God's kingdom first when you know His people are coming together to study His word or to worship Him, and you chose not to be there when you could have been there?
2. Did Jesus make a sacrifice for the church? How big of a sacrifice did He make? How big of a sacrifice am I willing to make when other aspects of my life conflict with the appointed times when the church comes together?
3. Luke 4:16: Did Jesus regularly worship God with God's people? Am I to be like Him? (1 John 2:6).

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Proverbs 10:27-32
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Mike Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**