

## Why I Attend All the Services

*John Isaac Edwards*

**“I** was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1).

***That’s How I Was Trained.*** Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” While in my mother’s womb, I attended all the services of the church. Growing up, we never asked if we were going to services. We knew where we would be. I played Little League Baseball, with the understanding that if it was the last inning of the game, the score was tied, there were two outs, the bases were loaded, I was up to bat and the count was full, if it was time to leave for services, I would lay down the bat and go. I am eternally grateful for this training.

***The Example of Early Christians.*** First-century Christians came together often (Acts 2:46; 20:7). Can you imagine Peter, Paul, Barnabas, John, Dorcas, Aquila and Priscilla, or Phebe not attending all the services?

***The Lord Is There.*** Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). I want to be where my Lord is. The Lord has never missed a service. I am striving to “follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

***To Be Made Stronger.*** One reason we come together in the church is that we might be edified (1 Corinthians 14; Ephesians 4:16). I need this strength to successfully face life’s problems.

It would be impossible for me to be the strong Christian God wants me to be and at the same time miss the services which are designed to help me be strong.

***Out of Consideration for Others.*** Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” How sad to think that some soul could fall away and be lost because we were not present to help spur them on to love and good deeds! I want to be there to encourage others.

***Because of What I Would Miss If I Didn’t.*** I would miss teaching and admonishing others (Colossians 3:16), communing with my Lord and giving of my means on the Lord’s day (1 Corinthians 11:23-29), prayers with the saints, an opportunity to encourage visitors, witness baptisms and erring brethren restored, opportunities to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18), and other things I don’t want to miss!

***To Put First Things First.*** Jesus taught, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God...” (Matthew 6:33). The church of my Lord comes FIRST, before everything else, even before food and drink.

***To Set a Good Example.*** I have been taught,

“be thou an example of the believers” (1 Timothy 4:12). I want to be able to say as Gideon, “Look on me, and do likewise” (Judges 7:17), and as Paul, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). I want to lead folks in being faithful followers of Christ. Think about what my empty seat would say to my wife, to my children, and to others.

***For the People I Have Invited.*** As the woman of Samaria “went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come...” and they “came” (John 4:28-30), I want to be present to welcome those I have invited.

***Because of the Importance of the Church.*** God planned the church (Ephesians 3:10-11). Jesus built the church (Matthew 16:18), gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25), and shed His blood to purchase it (Acts 20:28). The least I can do is attend the services of the church. If folks can attend all the meetings and functions of non-spiritual institutions, why should I not attend all the services of the Lord’s church, the greatest of all institutions?

***It Is Good to Attend All the Services.*** Any service where my brethren are assembled to worship Almighty God and feed on His word is good. “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). If it is good to attend all the services, isn’t it bad to miss just one service?

***I Want to Do All I Can.*** I want to do ALL I can and not as LITTLE as I can. Even when I have done all that I can possibly do, I am still an unprofitable servant: I have done that which was my duty to do (Luke 17:10).

***To Help the Church Grow.*** When every part of the body does its share, the body grows (Ephesians 4:16). When one is absent, it is like a body missing a limb. The church grows when every member is at every service. I want to do my part to help the church grow.

***The Lord Could Come at Any Time.*** “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father” (Mark 13:32). Should the Lord come at a time when His people are gathered together, I wouldn’t want Him to find me someplace else.

***To Be Faithful to God.*** The Bible says, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (Hebrews 10:25). To not attend all the services faithfully is to not be faithful to God. I want to hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21).

I recall an elder in the church being asked the question, “Do I have to attend all the services of the church?” His answer: “I’ve never known a faithful Christian who didn’t want to.”

**The Terre Haute Speaker** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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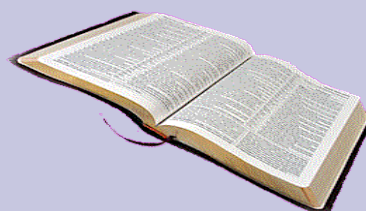
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**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
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Is Our  
Only Guide!***