

The Terre Haute SPEAKER

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

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A KIND OF CHURCH SOME NEED

Johnie Edwards

I just thought of the kind of church some folks need. Take a look and see if you agree and know anyone like this:

COME AND GO AS YOU LIKE. A church that never mentions Hebrews 10:25 about "...*forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....*" Let the members know that they can come and go as they please. One that shows no concern if members attend or not.

PUTS EVERYTHING BEFORE CHURCH. As you make a list of priorities, you can put the church at the bottom of the list. Oh, I know the Bible says: "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God...*" (Mt. 6:33).

KIND OF SERMONS. A church whose sermons are on love, grace, funny stories that make one laugh, kid skits and drama, news events, not always quoting Scripture, nothing said about sin and hell. Who wants to hear that old stuff? Modesty was for those who lived back in the first century (1 Tim. 2:9).

A CHURCH THAT ALLOWS SOCIAL DRINKING. Oh, I don't mean getting drunk! A church that understands that "*wine is good for the stomach*" is my kind of church (1 Tim. 5:23).

Everyone knows that Jesus turned water into wine (Jn. 2).

SPORTS BUILD

CHARACTER. A church that doesn't know this is just out of touch. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, you know. I know what old Paul said about "*exercise*" but after all, he didn't have any kids (1 Tim. 4:7-8). A church should not expect my son/daughter to leave a game on Wednesday night to attend Bible study. They get enough studying at school!

A NON WITHDRAWING CHURCH. Oh, I know the old apostle Paul said "*withdraw from those who walk disorderly*" (2 Th. 3:6-15), but that will just make folks mad and they may "*withdraw themselves from the church*." After all, not many churches today are practicing this old command!

A CHURCH WITH LESS SCRIPTURE QUOTING. We need a church who is fun to attend with funny stories, kid skits, book/movie reviews, not so many Scriptures being used; so we can leave with a fuzzy feeling.

Now, this is my kind of church some are saying! What think ye?

WHERE DILIGENCE IS NEEDED

John Edwards

The Scriptures stress the need for diligence, careful and persistent work or effort.

IN TEACHING OUR CHILDREN. Israel was instructed, "*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...*" (Dt. 6:7). How much effort do we put into teaching our children the words of the Lord, and to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and might?

IN COMMANDMENT KEEPING. Deuteronomy 6:17 says, "*Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God...*" Joshua exhorted, "*But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law...*" (Josh. 22:5). King Artaxerxes decreed, "*Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done...*" (Ezra 7:23). We need that same fervor for doing what God commands today! The Psalmist said, "*Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently*" (Ps. 119:4).

IN KEEPING THE HEART. Wisdom literature teaches, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*" (Prov. 4:23). Moses appealed to the nation of Israel, "*Only take heed to*

thyself, and keep thy soul diligently..." (Dt. 4:9). It is the persistent effort of every individual to keep his heart!

IN SEEKING THE LOST. Remember the lost piece of silver? "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" (Lk. 15:8). No doubt, there will be more rejoicing when there is more seeking!

IN SPEAKING AND TEACHING THE THINGS OF THE LORD. It is said of Apollos, "...he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord..." (Acts 18:25). Think how many would come to know the Lord if each of us would do this today!

IN FOLLOWING GOOD WORKS. Among "widow taken into number" requirements is the condition: "...if she have diligently followed every good work" (1 Tim. 5:10). The Christian is "...created in Christ Jesus unto good works..." (Eph. 2:10), to be "...zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14)

IN SEEKING GOD. God

"...is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). It is true that, "if thou shalt seek the Lord, thou shalt find him" (Dt. 4:29). Paul preached, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him..." (Acts 17:27). Some may never find the Lord for lack of diligence in seeking! Will you?

IN LOOKING. The Hebrew writer admonished, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God..." (Heb. 12:15). If the notion of 'once in grace, always in grace' is true, why the admonition to look diligently? We do not want to "fail of the grace of God" for "by grace ye are saved" (Eph. 2:5)!

IN ADDING TO FAITH. Peter reminded disciples, "...giving all diligence, add to your faith..." (2 Pet. 1:5-7). Virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity are seven additions that require careful work. Diligent faith-adding is a must "...to make your calling and election sure" (v. 10)!

IN BEING FOUND BLAMELESS. Looking for new

heavens and a new earth, "...be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (2 Pet. 3:14). How will we be found in the day of the Lord?

How about dedicating yourself to "abounding in all diligence" in this new decade (2 Cor. 8:7)?

"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich" (Prov. 10:4).

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute" (Prov. 12:24).

"The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious" (Prov. 12:27).

"The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat" (Prov. 13:4).

"The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want" (Prov. 21:5).

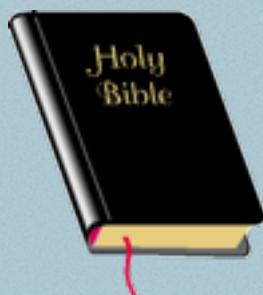
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Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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