

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

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BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

Nicolas Edwards

Revelation 2:10 says, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* If you want to receive the crown of life, this verse calls you to be faithful, even to the very taking of your life! Surely that would require being faithful to anything short of that. This would include being faithful to the point of:

SPORTS. There are members of the church who are faithful, to the Lord, to the point of sports. A child has a sports game, a bowling tournament, a big football game is on Sunday, and they are in the bleachers rather than the pew! If these individuals cannot be faithful when sports interfere, how can they be expected to be faithful to the very taking of their life?

FAMILY. Being faithful to the point of death suggests we are to be faithful even if it means family ties are broken! The Lord put it this way: *“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever*

loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Mt. 10:37). There are those who forsake the Lord for family. What about being faithful unto death?

WORK. Often times, it is overlooked and tolerated when members of the church forsake the assembling for work. We are to *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”* (Mt. 6:33). Not earthly necessities! We are to be *“Working with his hands the thing which is good”* (Eph. 4:28). Do you think it is good to work somewhere that takes you away from the Lord? Being faithful unto death would require being faithful even if it means finding a new job to fully follow the Lord!

SCHOOL. There are those who are faithful to the point of school. As soon as a school function, club, activity, etc. comes up they forsake the assembling and the Lord to go to the school function rather than standing up for what is right and being faithful. How can these be expected to be faithful to the point of death if they allow school to get in the way?

PETTY EXCUSES. There are members of the church who look for any and every excuse to forsake the assembling. I am not talking about circumstances

that occur which are out of one's control that render one incapable of assembling. But, those who miss for a “stubbed toe” or a “paper cut” if you will. There are those who will miss for anything and then there are others who, like Paul, could be stoned and yet still arise and go back into the city (Acts 14:19-20)!

VACATION. There are many members of the church, even elders in the church, who are faithful to the Lord to the point of vacations! It seems that when they go on vacation that includes vacation from the Lord! They choose a destination that is too far away from the church of Christ and they do not assemble with the saints! They spend Wednesday night on the beach rather than going to the house of the Lord! We are to be faithful to the point of death! Not to the point of vacation. Make the Lord your priority and do not choose to vacation anywhere where there is not a church.

We need more members of the church who will say God comes first! Not sports, not family, not work, not school, not petty excuses, not vacation, or anything else you might think of.

**EVERY MEMBER
AT EVERY SERVICE!**

ATTENDANCE

Roy E. Cogdill

Attendance at the services of the church is the best index of interest in one's own spiritual growth, and is a certain indication of one's own interest in the Lord's church.

One of the purposes for which God gave the church is that we might be edified as a member of the body (Eph. 4:16). The edification of the body as a whole depends upon each member contributing his individual part thereto. This is the object of worship and fellowship in the church. We need this strength for life's problems and temptations, and we cannot successfully live the Christian life and render an acceptable service to God without it. Every one of us should be determined, therefore, to obtain it by attending every service that it is possible for us to attend. The services of the church are designed for this very purpose. They can be a blessing for our souls and make us stronger Christians. We must attend them, however, with the right attitude if we are to receive a blessing from them. No

service can do us any good without our being present, no matter how much truth is preached. Every service will benefit us unless we come to it with an improper attitude — unteachable, and prejudiced in heart. We rob ourselves of the strength we need if we fail to attend with the right disposition of soul.

In these services, through study and instruction, and the worship ordained of God, we receive admonition and exhortation, and therefore strength. No member of the church can be the strong Christian that he should be without attending every service possible. It is entirely impossible for us to be Christians that we must be in order to please God, and grow as we should, if we habitually miss the services held for the very purpose of helping us. Neither is it possible for us to please God, and grow as we should, be merely attending on Sunday morning. Sunday morning Christianity is half-hearted Christianity, and the person who has it needs a whole-hearted conversion to the Lord.

When our services on Sunday evening present only about 60% of our attendance on Sunday morning; when, on Wednesday night, we have only about half of those present for the breaking of bread on Sunday morning; when attendance at the Bible classes is less than the membership of the congregation; and when more than half of the membership of a congregation do not attend and support a series of gospel meetings to preach the gospel; something is seriously wrong with the church. Such half-hearted devotion to duty and the interests of the kingdom can only be a reproach to the church, and be disappointing to the Lord. Where do you, as an individual, fit into the picture? If you have been attending only a part of the services, won't you become a full-time Christian?

GOSPEL MEETING

with
Ron Halbrook

October 23-29

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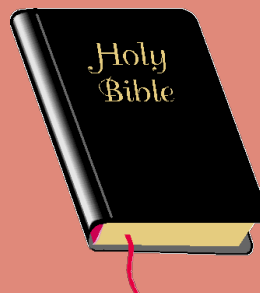
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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

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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