

Parents Beware

We have a clear Bible teaching on the subject of attending the services. Heb 10: 25 teaches us: “[N]ot 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.” Heb 10:25. The teaching to attend services is clear. Yet many of us remain truant, failing to attend regularly the services of the church. And worse, failing to bring our children. The consequences of this neglect is very clear in the next two verses: “26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” Heb 10:26-27.

Do not miss the power.

When we fail to attend, we miss the power of God, Jesus, and the saints to edify and build us up in the faith. The preceding verse, Heb.10: 24, teaches: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.”

The lack of attendance has impact.

Our lack of attendance impacts not only on our fellow members in Christ, but it impacts most heavily on our children. For, when parents stay home, so do their children. All parents, especially Christian parents, should know their responsibility. Eph.6:4 teaches: “Provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.” Notice what our children miss when we do not bring them to services.

Bible study.

The children miss a chance to study the Bible. Christians are charged: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Tim 2:15. Television cartoons on Sunday morning will malnourish children who should be at the Bible school feasting on God’s word. Certainly our Biblical studies are more important than our secular studies. Most parents would not dream of denying their children a secular education, and yet some of these same parents ignore the Christian education of their children.

Christian companions.

The children miss the chance to have Christian companions. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’” 1 Cor 15: 33. Usually the only opportunity to associate with Christian people is at the services. When

parents miss these few hours a week, they are dictating that their children will only have the influence of those of another faith or those of no faith. A lack of Christian companions will also lead to marrying outside the faith as our children grow older.

Edifying worship.

The children miss the opportunity to be built up in the worship services. Even the singing is intended to build us all up in the faith. This includes the children. “ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3: 16. There is also the combined edifying effect of the Lord’s supper, praying, teaching, and preaching. These are helpful to children by word and example.

Regular attendance now.

If you haven’t been attending regularly, won’t you start attending all the services of the church now. It will benefit you and your children in the present, in their future, and in eternity. To adapt the poet’s phrase: do it “*for heaven and your children’s sake!*”

Study questions.

1. What are two responsibilities that we have regarding attending the services of the church? _____

2. Upon what groups of people does our lack of attendance impact? _____

3. What three things do our children miss when they do not attend the services of the church? _____

4. What do children learn to do when they study the Bible (2 Tim 2:15)?

5. What are the short range consequences of not having Christian companions? Long range? _____

6. What is the effect of evil companionships? _____
7. How does worship build children up in Christ? _____