

Why Do Men Leave The Lord?

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." (Jn.6:66).
Why would a disciple abandon his Master?

Some leave because they object to something he has said. Though God's commandments are not grievous, they sometimes go against our grain, thus testing our willingness to obey (Heb.5:8,9).

Others leave because of social pressure, the fear of what their friends will think of them. *"The Fear of man bringeth a snare"* (Prov.29:25), and the strongest of men often fall into it. Aaron made the golden calf, Peter denied the Lord, and Barnabas joined in with hypocritical brethren, all because of the fear of man.

A self-sufficient attitude moves some to forsake the Lord. Like the rich fool, they have all they need -- or at least they think they do. Someone said, "The only thing on earth money won't buy is happiness; the only place money can't get you is heaven." It is difficult for wealthy men to recognize their poverty-stricken condition before God (Mt.5:3).

The love of sin pulls some away from Jesus. Unlike Moses who chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, they live merely to enjoy the sensual pleasures of this life. *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"* (Mt.16:26a).

- by Rick Duggin

A Matter of Life and Death

We've all heard the statement, "It's a matter of life and death." It expresses a sense of urgency, and it's designed to get attention and solicit immediate response. It may be used in a phone call to the police, the paramedics, or the firemen, or in hospital situations. It is physical life and physical death we're talking about, and when it's a life or death situation involving us or our loved ones, we think anyone would agree that it is an urgent matter indeed.

But for some strange reason, when it becomes a matter of spiritual life or spiritual death, when it involves the salvation of a soul or the eternal destiny of a soul, our own, that of a loved one, that of a friend or neighbor or fellow-worker, the urgency is gone, and the matter can wait. With all too many this is not a priority that should receive immediate attention, and it is put off until it is too late - forever! How do we really feel about the life or death, about the eternal destiny of a soul - yours or some else's? I really believe that if I were lost and knew it, I could not rest, could not sleep - could not have any peace - until I took care of that matter once and for all. What about you?

- by Bill Crews

Bible Classes

I attend because they help me grow in grace and knowledge. I share in the lessons and thoughts from various ones. There my children learn lessons that will help preserve them from the pitfalls of life and prepare them for heaven and eternity. My participation shows to the world my interest in the church and spiritual things - which may influence others for good. My concern for others, my children and my own soul will not let me willfully neglect such activity.

Now, suppose you make a list of reasons why you do not attend the classes:

- *"I'd rather sleep late."*
- *"it's too much trouble to get up and get the kids ready."*
- *"There's something else I had rather do."*
- *"The teacher doesn't interest me."*
- *"I'm good enough and know enough already."*
- *"I need the extra rest (so I can work more overtime and/or engage in more recreational activities)."*

Go ahead, make your list. Then present it to God when you pray! If you think God will accept

such excuses, I suggest you read (before you reach judgment day) Matt. 6:33; Matt. 25, and Rev. 3:14-21.

- by *Hershel Patton*

Faithfulness

- Is a car that starts 7 out of 10 times *faithful*?
- Is a refrigerator that only quits once a month *faithful*?
- Is your paper boy *faithful* if he only misses delivering your paper two or three times a week?
- If your hot water heater greets you with hot water 5 mornings out of 7 would you call it *faithful* - or would you call a plumber?
- If you don't come to work one or two mornings a week, would your boss consider you *faithful* - or unemployed?
- If you attend church services in a similar manner, only missing occasionally, coming most of the time ... **ARE YOU FAITHFUL?**
- Read Hebrews 10:25

- *selected*

Many churches are now streaming their worship services over the Internet (as we are doing here at Collegevue). This is a very beneficial thing to those who are unable to attend the assemblies due to illness, a sick family member, weather hindrances, etc. Lots of folks have commented that this is a real blessing when they are unavoidably absent from the church services. We agree that this is a good thing.

However, there are those who have warned – sometimes jokingly, other times seriously – that people might begin to purposely stay at home. Instead of going to the trouble to get dressed, make the trek to the church building, sit on somewhat uncomfortable pews, maybe while wrestling unruly children – just stay home in your 'comfy pants' with a cup of coffee in hand and watch on your computer, phone, or smart TV. *Why not!?!*

Here's why not: Live streaming on the Internet does not offer the benefits of being with other worshippers. There are no interactions, no warm greetings, no relationship building as we converse with one another. There is no "teaching and admonishing one another" in the singing of songs (Col. 3:16) – for while you can sit at home and hear the singing, no one can hear and thus be taught and encouraged by you. It's not possible for you to participate in the mutual edification that worship is designed to accomplish (Heb. 10:24,25) unless you are present.

The earliest Christians knew the advantages of personally joining with other saints. This started on 'day one' (Acts 2:41-47) and continued even in the face of terrible persecution (Acts 5:41-42). They surely would not have opted for an easy, 'stay at home' option. Neither should we.

Live streaming is a great thing, but let us be careful not to abuse the opportunity. To deliberately forsake "the assembling of ourselves together" is wrong (Heb. 10:25) whether you watch via the Internet or not. Think!

- by *Greg Gwin*