

## ***About Your Attendance***

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in produce.

- by **Dee Bowman**

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## ***Are We Ashamed?***

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16)

When churches try to lure people to their services by means of gimmicks and big promotions, they make a big mistake. Bingo parties, musical entertainment, films, dinners and such like, only cheapen the gospel in the minds of thinking people. A bigger attendance may be the short term effect, but less respect for God is the long term effect. If you gain souls by carnal means, then carnal means will be needed to hold them. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of GOD unto salvation, and though fewer may respond to it, salvation is only therein.

- by **Whit Sasser**

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## ***Divorce Times Four***

Jesus is very clear about those who take marriage vows lightly as if they can be dismissed:

***"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."*** (Matthew 19:9, NKJV)

It is entirely possible that four people could ultimately lose their souls because of what one person did when he put away his spouse. Count them with me: 1) The man who divorced his wife without scriptural cause, 2) the one whom he marries, 3) the one whom he divorced, 4) the one that she marries.

Four people lost . . . Let all of us who are married keep our word (our vows) to each other with all the strength that God has given.

- by **Bob Hines**

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## ***"You Can't Legislate Morality"***

Of course, if we are talking about making people change and adopt godly values merely by acts of legislation, it is true that morality cannot be legislated. Legislation doesn't necessarily or automatically change a person's basic values and attitudes. Yet, our civil laws should reflect correct principles of morality!

Two fundamental functions of civil government (as ordained by God) are: {1} The punishment of evil doers, and {2} The praise of those who do good. {See 1Pet. 2:13,14}. How can government identify, apprehend and try "evil doers," without laws against evil doing? How can government praise and protect "those who do good," without legislating against evil and in favor of good?

We can and must write, promote and enforce laws based on what is morally right. And, we must penalize immorality, so far as possible. God calls for "the punishment of evildoers" and "the praise of those who do good."

- by **Warren E. Berkley**

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## **Anger**

A short-tempered man is a fool. It's in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 7:9, Proverbs 19:11, and 16:32. "Don't be quick-tempered -- that is being a fool." "A wise man restrains his anger and overlooks insults. This is to his credit." "It is better to be slow-tempered than famous; it is better to have self-control than to control an army."

Get over anger quickly. It's in the Bible, Ephesians 4:26-27. "If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the sun go down with you still angry -- get over it quickly; For when you are angry you give a mighty foothold to the devil."

Don't fight back when wronged. It's in the Bible, 1 Peter 3:9, "Don't repay evil for evil. Don't snap back at those who say unkind things about you. Instead, pray for God's help for them, for we are to be kind to others, and God will bless us for it."

Anger produces strife. It's in the Bible, Proverbs 30:33, "For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife."

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## **The Only Ones Going To Heaven**

"I've heard that you 'Church of Christ' people think that you are the only ones going to heaven. Is that true?"

We are often asked this question, and we appreciate the opportunity to explain what we believe. Would you please give careful consideration to these simple points from the Bible?

1) It important to remember that God is the judge of eternal things. Our personal opinions do not matter. What you think, what we think, what some religious denomination teaches -- none of this matters. In fact, Jesus said that many who think they are saved will be lost in the last day (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). The Scriptures will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48).

2) The New Testament clearly teaches who will be saved. It describes a simple 'plan of salvation' that any accountable person can understand and obey. We must hear the truth (Rom 10:17), believe the truth (Hebrews 11:6), repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:10), and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). If we remain faithful, we are promised a reward in heaven (Revelation 2:10). This is not a human dogma or creed. It is the plain and simple teaching of God's Word. If a person obeys these commands they will be saved. If they do not, they will be lost. It is just that simple. The only ones going to heaven are the ones who submit to God's will and obey His commands.

3) Now, where does the church of Christ figure into all of this? Acts 2:47 tells us that those who are saved are added to the church by the Lord. When you do what you must do to be saved (see point #2) then you are automatically added to that church which you read about in the Bible. This is not some man-made denomination. It is the church that belongs to Jesus -- it is the "church of Christ" (Romans 16:16).

Therefore, the answer is yes -- you must be a member of **that** church to go to heaven. Do you see it?

- *by Greg Gwin*