

For Our Information

John LaValla will be in Little Rock for testing Monday. He may be staying overnight.

The Simpson Family is out of town.

We need to also remember those of our extended families who are dealing with sickness and treatments.

There are several of our members who have family or friends who are dealing with storms and their aftermath. Let us remember them.

[Keep our brothers & sisters in mind](#)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

only singing songs of praise to God!"

- "My best friend is coming over, I think I'll go to a movie with him, After all, it's only adoration to the One who created me and continues to bless me!"
- "I think I'll go to the game instead. You know, it's only stirring up my brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good deeds!"

Hmm... church doesn't sound so insignificant that way, does it?

The world might think that "It's just church," and so see no harm in missing it if there is something else we want to do, but our God thinks more of it than that. That is why He led the Hebrew writer to warn his readers not to have a casual attitude about it:

*Not 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***

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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It's Only Church!

Jerry King

One year, when my son Matt was a little fellow, I coached his "coach pitch" baseball team. We practiced a couple of afternoons a week, and then games were played on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Matt and I were fortunate in that only one of our games conflicted with a worship service. We had no Wednesday evening conflicts, but we did have a Tuesday evening one--our Spring Gospel Meeting. The service started at 7:30, the game started at 7:00.

I have long believed that children learn as much, if not more, from the example that their parents set than from any words their parents might speak, and I have always believed that



*For where
two or three
have
gathered
together in
My name, I
am there in
their midst.*

Matthew
18:20



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

church services should be a priority over any other conflicting activity. And so, not only did I tell my children that Wednesday evening Bible study was *the* Wednesday evening priority and Gospel Meeting services were *the* weeknight priority during the week of our Gospel meetings, I tried my best to exemplify it as well.

In this case, it meant that Matt would miss playing in the baseball game and I would miss coaching it on that Tuesday evening. That certainly was not a "life or death" decision--we would have more than enough players suited up to play the game, and several assistant coaches who could fill my shoes. The game would go on perfectly fine without us (as much as we would like to think otherwise), and if not, it was a *game*--"an activity engaged in for amusement."

When I shared with my head assistant that Matt and I would be missing the lone Tuesday evening game, he was a bit stupefied. He found it difficult to understand why I would miss the game to attend church. He asked me to reconsider, and when I refused to, he answered, "But it's just church!"

Now, mind you, this was a fellow who had already missed several Saturday morning games because he was a race car enthusiast and several races he wanted to attend had been run out of town on Saturday. But that was race cars! This was "just church."

That kind of attitude has become more and more prevalent in our recreation-mad society. "It's just church" has become a mantra for unbelievers who see nothing of interest or entertainment, and therefore nothing of value, in church services. That is certainly disturbing, but what is even more disturbing is the increased slack attitude toward church evident among those who claim to be believers. It used to be

Store In My Heart

Psalm 139:14

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

What is your attitude regarding God? The Psalmist recognizes Him as Creator and offers sincere gratitude for what He has done. In this passage we also see that the Psalmist recognizes that his very existence is sufficient proof of the handy work of God.

The creation around and within us should cause us to praise God for His great and mighty power. God not only provides the air, food, and water we require, He has given us the means to process those things so that we may live. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

that schools and recreational organizations would not schedule activities on Wednesday evenings because of pressure from most of the more conservative denominational churches. That pressure seems to be almost non-existent today. And so, not only are Wednesday evening activities scheduled with no thought, but even Sunday morning activities have become commonplace.

And even in the Lord's church (where we continue to stress the importance of "church") it is not uncommon to see a slack attitude about church services, especially weeknight services. "It's just church" might not be on the lips, but is it in the heart? Is it in your heart?

Perhaps it is unfortunate that we have come to use the phrase "going to church" to describe what we do on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings and during Gospel Meetings. Maybe we need to be reminded of what "going to church" really is. "Going to church" is singing songs of praise to God. "Going to church" is offering prayers to God for and with one another. "Going to church" is remembering in a special way the death of Christ for our sins. "Going to church" is studying with other Christians so that we can better understand the will of God for our lives. "Going to church" is adoration to the One who created us and continues to bless us. "Going to church" is stirring one's fellow Christians to love and good deeds.

Wow, "It's just church" sounds pretty lame when we remember what going to church is, doesn't it? The next time you are tempted to miss, thinking that "It's just church," try substituting the word church with one of those descriptions of what church is.

- "I think I will stay home tonight. After all, it's