

*But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.*

**Galatians 6:4**

## Store In My Heart

### 1Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Written toward the end of his long stay in Ephesus around 55 AD, this letter to the brethren in Corinth deals with several problems that had arisen since they had obeyed. Division and sexual immorality are dealt with as well as some issues with spiritual gifts. Paul urges them to focus on helping one another serve God. His passage on love points them, and us today, to the heart of many of these issues. They were not giving themselves to the work, rather they were expecting the work to give to them. We need to learn the necessity of giving of self in service to others. Much of our difficulty arises from a focus on self rather than others and God.



# Why Is It?

## Morris D. Norman

We see so many in today's society that are doing so many things to destroy health and shorten life. There are many campaigns and much public advertisement to keep people from the evil of drugs, drink and tobacco but the number who participate is ever growing. Sober thinking people say "Why is it?" But there are areas in which preachers, elders, teachers and concerned Christians may ask, "Why is it?"

Why is it that people have to be urged to love and serve the Lord? It is the only way that man can possibly escape an eternal hell. When people find out that they have some dread disease they will immediately see a doctor and hope that there is remedy that they will be able to follow to rid themselves of the disease. But when they find out that they are on the road to eternal ruin, they very often take offense at the one who sounds the warning. Why is it?

Why is it that people have to be urged to even consider what the Bible says? It is extremely difficult to find people who are even interested in a study of the Scriptures; people who are interested enough in their souls to sit down and talk about what the Bible says for a few minutes.

Why is it that people have to be urged to obey the gospel after they have learned the truth and know what jeopardy their souls are in? Every assembly is characterized by repeating the Lord's invitation. Lesson after lesson is

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

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is back home. Bill is helping with physical therapy.

Brenda Keisler will see a doctor this week for her hip pain.

Jerry Henderson is now in a skilled nursing center in Athens, AL.

The Simpson family is in Star City.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 5:17.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Philippians 2:19.

Join us for all these studies.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

presented to urge upon those who are not Christians to respond to the Lord's pleadings But they spurn invitation after invitation. They spurn the yearnings, the love and encouragement of those who are interested in them. Why is it?

Why is it that "Christians" have to be urged to regularly attend the worship and study assemblies? One would think that those who "love" the Lord would not have to be urged (and really, those who love the Lord do not have to be urged to attend). But those who take the responsibility of teaching, spend so much of their time trying to get people to do what is good for them and what they know they ought to do. Why is it?

Does this not speak of the fact that others love our souls more than we love our own when we have to be urged to do what is good for our eternal security? Others spend hours in study and prayer, but we lightly turn away their pleadings. Why is it?

(I hope as you consider the questions raised in this article you will take the time to consider if you can find any similarities to your own life in them. It is very easy to say, "I hope Brother X and Sister Z take this message to heart." What is actually necessary is for each of us to honestly consider our own practice and activities in light of the teaching emphasized in this article.

We all know very well that there is only one individual under our control. I can only change myself, not someone else. Therefore it is important for me to tackle my own actions and attitudes as I read from the Word of God, listen to a sermon, or read an article that asks, "Why?". As I have told some in the past, if a particular lesson or article hits home for you or steps on your toes, that just means that you and I have similar things to work on.

Most of what is considered in this article falls into the "basics" category for our congregation, but they are still things that need to be considered. That tells us that we can never relax from our vigilance in service to God. Do I love myself enough to examine my own heart regarding these "simple" things? Am I willing to look a little harder at all parts of my service? More importantly, am I willing to make the changes that I see are needed? DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!