

## What Your Absence Says Acts 2:41-47

The question is often asked

Do I have to attend every service?

What difference does my presence make?

Look at what your absence says to those that know you are gone.

Article Gospel Spotlight, 65th St, Little Rock, AR, Louis J. Sharp

### To God

You show improper reverence and respect to God.

A service is being conducted in His honor, but you do not come.

*John 4:24* God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

You robbed God of glory and honor.

The service would have been more glorious if you had come.

*2Thessalonians 1:10-12* when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

You showed that you preferred the presence of others. Jesus said

*Matthew 18:20* For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

*1Corinthians 14:23* Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

*1Corinthians 14:26* What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

You showed a lack of appreciation for your blessings.

Bible teaches God is giver of every good & perfect gift.

*James 1:17* Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Here is a service to express thanks to God. Shall we fail to attend?

### To Others

You hinder the salvation of sinners

Sinners see you absent from worship, they must conclude worship is not very important, church & gospel are of little consequence.

*1Peter 2:12* Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

You make it harder for the preacher to preach.

It is hard to preach to empty pews. The preacher is told by your absence that what he has to say is not very important.

*Colossians 1:27-28* to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Weak members are encouraged to stay away by the fact you do. Even those strong feel certain discouragement by your absence.

*Hebrews 10:24* and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

*1Thessalonians 5:11* Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

*Romans 14:19* So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

### To Yourself

You take a step on the downward path.

When miss one service, you have made it easier to miss another.

*Matthew 26:41* Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

You hinder your prayer life.

You can't pray for God to help you live a Christian life when you deliberately forsake services designed to strengthen and help you.

*Acts 20:32* And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

*1Corinthians 4:17* For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

*Colossians 3:16* Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

You hinder your saving others.

Invite someone to services, look for you first if he comes. Influence is nullified when he realizes you didn't care enough to be present.

**1Timothy 3:7** And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**1Peter 3:16** and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

You make it harder to overcome temptation.

Worship and study are designed to give us strength and draw us closer to the Lord. We are thus better prepared to overcome the world. We need all the help we can get to overcome Satan.

**1Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

**James 5:19-20** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

You rob yourself of growth.

Growth cannot be obtained without proper diet. To miss any service is to rob ourselves of nourishment and growth.

**2Peter 1:5-11** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

## To Satan

I am easy picking

You have separated yourself from your family thus making yourself vulnerable to being kidnapped by Satan.

**1Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 5:7-12** Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret

## Is church attendance necessary?

Only if you want to remain strong in the faith.

Only if you want to teach others

Only if you want to serve God to the fullest.

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