

*We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.*

**John 9:4**

## 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. This reminder that reward comes from steadfast continuance is much needed.



# Faithful To What?

**Robert Turner**

I believe Christians may “depart from the faith,” “fall away from grace,” even “deny the Lord that bought them” (**1Timothy 4:1; Galatians 5:4; 2Peter 2:1**) for the scriptures clearly teach this.

**1John 2:19** says: “They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.” Those who believe this applies to all who backslide are wrong. But we also err if we think that all who are baptized, and are “faithful” in their hometown, are truly converted to Christ.

It is a common cry in California (and I suspect in northeastern industrial areas) that many “faithful” Christians from Tennessee, Oklahoma or Texas, come there to work, and “never darken the church doors.” Friends lament the fact that they were “faithful to the church” back home.

And that is it – exactly! They were indeed “faithful to the church” (apparently), but not faithful to the Lord. Many “grew up in the church” without really knowing the truth in a direct and personal way. They may have been drilled in the right answers concerning baptism, the Lord’s Supper, instrumental music, etc., yet never have committed themselves to honest Bible study, never have given themselves whole-heartedly to Christ.

“Back home” their parents and their friends expected them to “be faithful” (meaning, attend the services), and they did so. But away from home, separated from hometown pressures to

conform, their lack of genuine ties to Christ became apparent. It was not “worldly California” that drew them away, they simply were not bound by the love of God in the first place.

Much of our concern about the young people who “quit the church” is equally misdirected. Area-wide socials, church skating parties and other fellowship hall activities do not bind the youth to Christ. They actually increase the rate of apostasy when these young people leave home and are thrown into an environment that calls for spiritual strength. If we feed hungry souls with hamburgers we deprive them of training for the church-world, light-darkness battles they must meet in adult life.

Is “churchanity” responsible for much of the weak spiritual fiber seen in those who go astray? I believe it is, and have for twenty years or more been preaching the evils of “party line” religion. But God forbid that I should deny the existence of the divinely authorized local church, or the organized functions of its members. Sectarianism arises among God’s people, whether they call themselves “church” or “group,” when they regard themselves as the standard for “soundness.”

By objective, non-sectarian appraisal of our practices in the light of the word of God, we may be able to teach the next generation to turn to the Lord, and cleave to Him. (**Acts 11:20f**)

(Almost every parent and leader in a local congregation has had concerns about the faithfulness of some who have moved away. Too often folks are influenced more by a particular group or leader than the Gospel. Sometimes we contribute to when teaching others by emphasizing the group more than the Word. Each of us probably knows someone who “fell away” when they no longer had as much contact with a particular family or group. We must be careful to keep focus on Christ and His Word. DLH)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Sue Soliday** is recovering from a recent fall. She has visited a chiropractor for help with that.

**Brenda Keisler** will see a neurologist soon due to her MRI.

**Ruben Keisler** has an upcoming appointment with a surgeon for his elbow.

**JoBeth Henderson** did not have any other cancer evident on her scans last week. She should have her cancer surgery on Monday July 6.

**Tommy Robinson** should see his doctor again in July.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 61** Wednesday @ 7 - **Revelation 21**