

101 Excuses Christians Give for  
Forsaking the Assembling of  
Ourselves Together

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- Excuses commonly given by contemporary Christians
  - “I just don’t think I need to come on Wednesday evening.”
  - “The preacher is paid to be there, not us. I just don’t feel we need the classes.”
  - “Sunday night worship interferes with my children’s supper. Wednesday night the kids need to rest and be fresh for school the next day.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- Excuses commonly given by contemporary Christians
  - “I changed my work schedule to times of church services to have more free time during the rest of the week.”
  - “All I have to do is be there for the Lord’s Supper and I have fulfilled my duty to God.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- Excuses accepted by most church leadership
  - Deeply troubled by an important matter
  - Busy at work
  - Traveling or on vacation
  - Exhaustion
- No, wait! That’s Baal’s list of excuses for not coming to His own worship services
  - 1Kings 18:26-27 - “So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, O Baal, hear us! But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. 27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What the issue is not
  - It is not about knowledge.
  - You know you need to attend, and you know the scriptures that require it
  - Heb. 10:25 - “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.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What the issue is not
  - It is not about hardship.
  - You know you are not afflicted nearly as much as Christians in the first century or those in hard places today
  - Acts 14:21-22 - “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What the issue is not
  - It is not about reasoning.
  - You know that your excuses are the product of your rationalizing to comfort yourself and will not stand in the Judgment
  - Isa. 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What the issue is not
  - It is not about your past good works.
  - You know that past good works cannot justify present sinful neglect
  - Isa. 58:1-5, 13-14

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What the issue is
  - Faithful attendance is reliable predictor of long term faithfulness.
  - In most cases, decreasing attendance is a good indicator of an eventual departure from the faith

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- What message does your absence send?
  - To the children who are eager to go to Bible class?
  - To the teens who come to sit together in the front?
  - To the elderly Christians who manage to get to services while you are making excuses?

# “What Are Acceptable Reasons For Missing Services?”

- Will your priorities be the same in ten years?
- The question that completely stumps me is how a Christian who professes to love God can want to absent himself from assemblies that are designed to honor Him and learn more of His will

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To have fellowship with the crucified and risen Christ
  - Matt; 18:20 - “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
  - Luke 10:16 - “He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To grow in the knowledge of God's Word
  - 1Tim. 4:13, 15-16 - “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To feed your soul
  - Deut. 8:3 - “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”
  - 1Peter 2:2 - “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To be loved, encouraged, and prayed for
  - Matt. 18:19 - “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”
  - Gal. 6:2 - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To love and encourage your fellow Christians
  - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- To worship
  - Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

# “Why Should I Attend All Of The Services?”

- To promote the Gospel
  - 1Thes. 1:8-9 - “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”

# 101 Excuses Christians Give for Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together

- Matt. 22:37-39 - “Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself’”
- Forsaking the assembling is just loving yourself