



# The Good News

August 22nd, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 33

## ***Our Attitude Toward Gathering with the Saints***

By Michael McCleary

**H**ave you ever woken up on a Sunday morning and just felt too tired to go to Bible study or worship? All of us, at some point, have felt this way. But maybe we were so intent on staying home that we justified it by convincing ourselves not to go, and whatever it was we wanted to do (sleeping in, watching TV, etc.) became more important than worshipping God with the saints.

What kind of attitude does God want from us in our service to Him? We can read in **Romans 12:11** that we are not to be “*slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.*” The idea conveyed with being “fervent in spirit” is having an attitude that contains an intense desire to do whatever the Lord asks, and it is the attitude that we must have to be pleasing to Him. This is the exact opposite of the attitude that asks, “What is the bare minimum I need to do?”

For instance, when we skip bible class on Sunday morning, and we come for worship service only, it gives the impression that we are seeking to only do what we “have to do”. This may not be a fair assessment, as there may be a perfectly reasonable explanation why we can’t make it. But we have to ask ourselves if God would consider it a reasonable explanation or am I just using that reason as an excuse? Studying the Bible is important, and the brethren notice when we make a habit of not attending for Bible study on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights. **Heb. 10:24** encourages us to “*consider one another in order to stir up love and good works*”. The Hebrew writer tells us to give “deep consideration and thought” about one another. For what purpose? To “pro

voke” each other to be willing to give of ourselves for others and for God, and to give ourselves to beautiful works. This stirring is accomplished by being together with the saints, not forsaking them when they gather (v.25). Anytime the saints are together is an opportunity to stir up love and good works.

We must remind ourselves that the services we have in this building are about God first and foremost. And as we worship God, praise God, pray to God, study God’s word, we also exhort and encourage those around us, our brothers and our sisters, our neighbors, and friends, out of love from a pure heart helping each other get to Heaven. If we are trying to find reasons to not attend, then something is wrong somewhere. Granted, there are circumstances in which we may not be able to make it to services or Bible studies, such as sickness, work, or some other unavoidable circumstance. But God is aware when we are truly just making excuses to get out of going to Bible class or worship.

Brethren, let us consider the type of service that God wants from us, “*in Spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24), realizing that “doing just enough”, or “just doing what I have to”, is not enough to get us to Heaven, but it is plenty to get us to hell.