

Three Good Reasons to Attend Every Service of Our Meeting

Neh. 8:1-3

Introduction:

- A. This meeting in Israel should inspire us.
 - 1. The message – “the book of the law of Moses”
 - 2. The length – “from morning until midday”
 - 3. The attention – “ears...were attentive unto the book of the law.”
 - 4. The method – read - gave sense – helped understand.”
- B. There are three good reasons to attend our meeting.

Discussion:

I. The Message Preached

- A. It is powerful (Rom. 1:15, 16; 1 Cor. 1:23, 24)
- B. It is priceless (Eph. 3:6-12; 2 Cor. 4:5-7)
- C. It is precious/rare/unique (Phil. 1:27; Eph 4:5; Gal. 1:6-9)
- D. It is practical (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

II. The Persons Present

- A. The Lord in a special way (Matt. 18:20)
- B. The members.
 - 1. Opportunity to edify one another (1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 17, 26).
 - 2. Opportunity to strengthen the weak (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14)
- C. The visitors.
 - 1. From other congregations.
 - a. Opportunity to know them.
 - b. Opportunity to learn to love them (cf. 1 Pet. 2:17).
 - 2. From the community.
 - a. Opportunity to influence them.
 - b. Opportunity to follow up.

III. The Community Perception

- A. Perception is important (1 Cor. 10:8-11)
- B. We must try to be a positive influence (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:15, 16)
- C. What the number of cars in parking lots says to passerby.
 - 1. If more than usual – “This must be a major event.”
 - 2. If less than usual - “This must be a minor event.”
- D. What the empty seat says to the visitor from the community.
 - 1. I am often asked, “Doesn’t Blank go to church here.”
 - 2. When members present is fraction of Sunday morning attendance.
 - 3. What if invited neighbor for dinner and you didn’t show up.
- E. Will never show community that gospel/church important until it becomes most important with us.

Conclusion:

- A. Entire meeting will take less time than Ezra’s reading of the law.
- B. Think about these reasons to attend.