



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Several years ago, I heard a compelling and thought-provoking maxim: "If your religion can't get you to church, it probably won't get you to heaven either." While this statement may be too simplistic and somewhat overstated, I believe it does accurately convey an important truth: *Growing Christians are actively involved in a local church.*

This recalls to my mind a conversation I had with a man over the phone a few years ago. Although he didn't go to our church, he had called the church to thank me for all the love and support that our women had given to his x-wife. After telling him that we rejoiced in the opportunity to be used by God in this way, I asked him where he went to church. What he said, however, surprised me. He told me he was a believer, but that he did not believe in going to church. Unfortunately, my answer was not well received. When I began to tell him that Scripture not only commands us to be in church, but also to be committed to one another within the church he cut me off short. He told me he did not want to listen to a "lecture" on church attendance and that he "worshipped God" by himself and in his own way. I then asked him, "Aren't you glad that the women of this church don't share your same attitude toward church?" He hung up.

Sadly, I believe this man's particular beliefs about God and church have become all too common among professing Christians today. Too many professing believers are "freelancing" their way in and around Christianity, and are committed only to "self-styled" worship in a "self-centered" religion. They are only interested in their own "independent spiritual journey." They worship and obey God when they want to, where they want to, and how they want to – all the while paying precious little attention to the commands of God's Word. For God commands believers to come together as a church lovingly, sincerely, regularly, selflessly, joyfully, and in unity. *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching"* (Heb.10:24-25). It is virtually impossible to obey this command, and the many "one another" commands, and not be actively involved in a local church.

While going to church does not make you a Christian, it is a vital part of every Christian's spiritual growth. When believers (who are physically able) refuse to be committed to a church, they are disobeying God's commands, hindering their own spiritual growth and weakening the health and life of that church. The apostle Paul proclaimed this truth when he told the believers in Corinth, *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it"* (1Cor.12:27). Similarly, he taught the believers in Rome: *"so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"* (Rom 12:5).

One of the more wonderful by-products of being faithfully committed to a local church comes as we willfully surrender ourselves to one another – deferring our individual freedoms and rights for the sake of something greater. It forces us to contend with our own self-interest and be committed to the interests of others (cf. Phil.2:4). God has intentionally and creatively made us all different, and He has commanded us to be one in love, peace, and unity. God seeks to be glorified by bringing unity out of our diversity! In fact, it is only through Him that this unity can occur. We honor God when we come together as a church to celebrate our unity in and for Him.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #15):

Exodus 5-8; 1 Samuel 21-25; Psalm 42-44; Job 29-30; Jeremiah 12-16; Mark 9-10; 1 Corinthians 13-14

Recommended Reading:

"What is a Healthy Church Member?" by Thabiti M. Anyabwile

Calendar of
Events:

April 14

Men's Breakfast

April 19

SAM's Luncheon

April 21

Women's Breakfast

April 22

Business Meeting

Looking Ahead....

Men's Retreat

May 4-6

Youth Garage Sale

May 26

Family Camp

June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
*Begins April 18th
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"

w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Christian Walk"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
*Begins April 11th
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Men's Breakfast ~ April 14th, 8:30am

Walking in the truth. Men, that is what we do as we follow Christ in our marriages, with our children, in our jobs, etc. That is our life. Join us at 8:30am, as we continue to learn together to walk in the truth!

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ April 19th, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for our SAM's potluck luncheon in the Fireside Room. Dennis Wood will be speaking on "A Physicist's Testimony". We don't want to miss you - if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Men's Retreat ~ May 4th to 6th

Register now for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4th to 6th. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at www.sbcnb.org, or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26th

We will start accepting clean, reusable donation items on April 2nd for our May 26th fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds for the Mexico Mission Trip in August.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.

VBS Planning Meeting ~ April 8th, Noon

For those participating in VBS or anyone who wants to help us get ready for this exciting week! Light refreshments provided. Call or text Loy at 360-607-0022 if you have any questions. You may also email Loy @ loy@sbcnb.org.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.