

# **WHAT EVERY CHURCH NEEDS**

**Ac.2:41,42; 1Cor.15:58**

**Ed Dye**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In this lesson we shall speak plainly about **WHAT EVERY CHURCH NEEDS**.
2. By “every church,” I do not mean, nor do I include Denominational churches, nor do I have reference to the word “church” in the universal sense as it used in the N.T., but to the word “church” as it used in the local sense.
3. Thus, I am speaking about what the local church needs, but especially about what this local church needs. Because what every church needs, we need!
4. Since the Lord loved the church so much, and since there is no organization of the church larger than or other than the local church to do the work the Lord assigned the church, every member of the local church should consider the local needs and realize his or her relation to the local church in the performance of his or her duties as a Christian.
5. May we be made to realize we cannot fully discharge our duties as a Christian unless we do consider our relation to the local church of which we are members.
6. According to such passages as Eph.4:11-16 and 1Cor.12:12-27 each member of each local church is to supply his or her part.
7. What, then, does every local church need?

## **II. DISCUSSION**

### **A. EVERY CHURCH NEEDS A 100% CONVERTED MEMBERSHIP.**

1. It would be wonderful and extremely effective if every member of every local church were fully converted to the Lord and his way; unfortunately, the facts are to the contrary.
2. True, only the converted and born again enter the kingdom, Jno.3:3-5.
  - a. But some of the converted fall away, do not remain faithful to the Lord, never attend services, never

participate in congregational activities, and are as those in Gal.5:4; Heb.6:4-6; Heb.10:25-31; 2Pet.2:20,21.

- b. Some are converted, fall away from the Lord, but do not cease to attend services – they only cease to work and live properly, and are as some in Corinth!
  - c. Sometimes there are those in the local church who were never converted; they simply “joined” the church because it was “convenient,” or for some other unscriptural reason.
    - (1) Of course, it is faithful obedience to the gospel that avails and assures salvation, not just “joining” the church. Cf. Gal.5:6; Jas.2:14-26; 2Th.1:6-10.
  - d. Some hide their hypocritical pretense to respectability behind their badge of church membership!
3. Everyone who obeys the gospel is scripturally obligated to be identified with a local church for work and worship with a personal obligation to fulfill therein.
- a. Contrary to the thinking of some, one’s membership moves with one.
  - b. How can one work and worship regularly with one local church and have membership with another?
    - (1) Example of Kennett, Mo. man who claimed this when he found out the local church he was attending was going to discipline him.
    - (2) He was a prominent business man who had the idea that what he did was no one’s business but his.
    - (3) In this case they proved to him the contrary!

**B. 100% ATTENDANCE AT ALL SERVICES, OR AT LEAST AN EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL MEMBERS TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, Heb.10:25; Ac.20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2.**

- 1. If the local church is to function to the fullest extent of its capacity, this is necessary.
- 2. Furthermore, willful absence is a service rendered to the devil, not to the Lord.
- 3. Absenteeism blights the growth and effectiveness of the local church in its work and destroys the soul of those guilty.
  - a. “Absenteeism” is more than being absent from a service.

- b. “Absenteeism” is “the practice of absenting oneself from; frequently or habitually” doing so.
  - c. Absenteeism is to a zealous attitude and the spiritual energy of the body of Christ what creeping paralysis is to the human body.
  - d. What do you think the Lord thinks about absenteeism?
  - e. By it, the local church may become blighted just like a melon vine, tomato vine, or cotton stalk!
  - f. Even outsiders notice the effects of absenteeism; they also notice the opposite practice by the members!
4. You may rationalize and seek to justify your absenteeism by saying, “The Lord did not command attendance except on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week!” but that is just an excuse, and you know what the Lord thinks of excuses offered for not putting him first, Mt.6:33; Lk.9:59-62; 14:15-24.
- a. Maybe there is no specific command for attendance at all services, but the early disciples following that which the Apostles bound and loosed were steadfast in a variety of services to the Lord, not just observing the Lord’s supper on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, Ac.2:40-42; 1Cor.15:58.
  - b. The first few chapters of the book of Acts and several of the Epistles reveal that they came together more often than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week for other purposes than to break bread!
  - c. So there is authority by Apostolic approved example and Necessary implication requiring more than the assembly for breaking bread!
  - d. You are laboring under a delusion if you think the only duty the local church has is to furnish a place and an assembly to meet to break bread!
  - e. If we had to depend on the interest and activity of this kind of servant, the gospel would never be preached to the lost of the world, and no saints would every be edified and grow to maturity as the Lord requires.
  - f. There would never be any teachers of God’s word developed, only gospel preachers would exist!
5. Too often attendance is very irregular in some local churches – even among some considered faithful.
- a. I suppose they are considered to be faithful; they are used just like the faithful.

- b. Sunday morning perhaps the whole family attends; Sunday night one or two of the same family may stay home; Wednesday night they all stay home.
- c. Sometimes they even stay away on Sunday morning.
- d. We need to learn what ought to be done in such cases!

**C. 100% GIVING AS PROSPERED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF THE WEEK, 1Cor.16:1,2; 2Cor.9:6,7.**

- 1. The local church has no other scriptural means to support its God-ordained work of Evangelism, Edification, and Benevolence, in addition to that of providing the place and the means for its worship services.

**D. 100% LIVING GODLY LIVES**

- 1. One corrupt, liberal-minded, worldly-spotted member affects the operation of the whole local church as one faulty spark plug or broken piston or ring affects the operation of an engine.
- 2. Each of us must keep the search-light of truth turned inward and consider how our light is shining – even if it is shining!
  - a. Have the dark shades of worldliness covered it? Dulled it?
  - b. Has the black pitch of moral corruption obliterated it?
- 3. Do we as professed Christians show Christ to the world? Or do we present a distorted, blurred picture of Churchanity?
- 4. God's worded grace demands godly living, Tit.2:11-14; 1Pet.1:14-16; 1Jno.3:3,7,8.

**E. EACH MEMBER SHOULD HAVE HIS OR HER OWN PLANNED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY AND WORK THE PLAN.**

**F. NEEDS TO WORK TOWARD BEING FULLY SCRIPTURALLY ORGANIZED WITH FULLY QUALIFIED ELDERS AND DEACONS, Ac.14:21-23; Phil.1:1; 1Tim.3:1-13; Tit.1:5-11.**

**III. CONCLUSION**

1. What every local church needs in order to fulfill its mission in serving the Lord, we need!
2. The Lord holds each of us responsible for supplying our part in the mission of the local church.
3. May each of us be admonished by Ac.2:40-42; 1Cor.15:58; Heb.6:10; Jas.1:22; 2:14; Rev.2:10.
4. May we strive to do this on both the individual and the congregational level.