



The Voice Of Truth

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Hillcrest church of Christ

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Please Hurry, We Want To Get Home!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We live in a fast paced world. We want every thing fast. We want our cars fixed fast. We can get our oil changed quickly. We want our food to be delivered fast. We want our pictures processed within an hour. We drive up to the bank, and do our banking in the car. Why? It's fast. We can pull up to a drive-thru window and get our medicines fast. Some funeral homes in California offer drive up service. You just drive up to the window, sign the guest book, view the body, and drive off without even leaving the security of your car.

This "drive-thru" quick service trend has even crept in the church. We want all services done fast! We want the entire service, not just the sermons, not lasting more than 20 to 25 minutes. This allows members of the church to beat the denominational members to the restaurants, or not be late to watch the ball games on TV, or maybe go home to do some house or yard work.

Brethren, something is definitely wrong

when people are in such a hurry to get through worship hour so they can get home or attend to more "urgent" matters. We meet only three or four hours a week out of a total of one hundred sixty-eight hours. Do we yearn to come together with fellow Christians in a building designed as a meeting place to worship the Creator? Some brothers and sisters only make it one hour a week. It's the Lord's Day not the Lord's hour. Something is deeply wrong if our hearts are not thrilled at the opportunity to meet with the saints in unity and fellowship to worship God. The early church assembled together every day (Acts 2:46). We meet a small fraction of the time they did. Yet, people still complain when worship goes more than 10 or 15 minutes over. Do we have a better place to go to later? I don't think we do. If the Christian will die for Christ, certainly he will not complain if the worship services go over. If you are a Christian, where else

would you want to be?

The real problem is in the heart. The heart is sick if one must be begged, prodded and coaxed to attend the services of the Lord's church at any time! If we love the Lord as we should, we would be at every service. If we love our brethren as we should, we would stay a little longer so we could fellowship together. To meet at any time with the saints to study the most precious book divine that tells of everlasting life and what to do to obtain it is the desire of everyone who truly wants to go to heaven. Our love for God compels us to be where He is. On Sunday and Wednesday night, He is with those who have gathered to worship Him. A Christian attends the services because he loves the church. We do not neglect that which we love. When a person loves the church, that one does not hurt the church by his neglect. He does not willfully absent himself from the services of the church, or complains that the service is too long, not if he loves it. Golgotha has completely lost its meaning to once redeemed souls whose spiritual thirst can be quenched in 20 or 25 minutes.

Yes, our world is fast paced. Yes, it does seem like we are always on the run. The real question is "Do you have time for our God?" He is always there for us, "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). Are you there for Him? I pray that God will help us to understand the need, the purpose, and the power of attendance at Bible classes and worship services, whenever the doors are open. I look forward to seeing you at every

service no matter how long the services might be!

TRY THESE EXCUSES

The following list of excuses is presented for your use the next time you miss work and need a good reason. These are some of the excuses that brethren have used thousands of times in the past. Obviously, if the Lord will accept them, they should satisfy your boss:

1. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, but some friends came by unexpectedly.
2. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, but we went to visit family and didn't make it back in time.
3. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, but I was with you in spirit.
4. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, but I decided to make my traveling plans during the time I was supposed to be at work and just could not make it.
5. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, but I don't like getting out when it is cold, hot, raining, or snowing.
6. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, I thought I would go work someplace else for a day, you know, just for a change.
7. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, gas prices are just too high to be driving.
8. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, I worked around the house, and I was just too tired to come.
9. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday; I went to Six Flags and a ball game and got home late. I needed to sleep, I was tired.
10. I'm sorry I wasn't at work yesterday, I had to cook dinner.

These excuses won't work with either your boss or with God!