

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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ARE YOU REGULARLY DOING THESE THINGS?

Larry R. Ping II

We often hear commercials encouraging us to regularly do things, like see the doctor, visit the dentist or have your oil changed. While these things are good to do, Christians must be regularly involved in the following, more vital actions.

1. Regularly Assemble With God's People. The Hebrew writer penned “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*” (Heb. 10:25). It is a good thing to consistently be with God's people. Recall, “*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin*” (James 4:17). Regular assembling brings with it consideration, a stirring up of love and good works and encouragement (Heb. 10:24). We should adopt the attitude of the Psalmist who wrote “*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD*” (Psa. 122:1). When the doors are open for assembling and study, and I have the ability to go, then I

have laid upon me the responsibility to go. If not, why not?

2. Regularly Pray.

People of the Bible were people of prayer. So they are today. The New Testament calls upon Christians to “*Pray without ceasing*” (I Thess. 5:17). The Philippians were taught “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (Php. 4:6). Consistent communication with God is important. Let us not grow lax.

3. Regularly Study

God's Word. Paul commanded Timothy, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (II Tim. 2:15). The Bereans were championed because “*they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*” (Acts 17:11). Conversely, the people of Hosea were “*destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hosea 4:6). We should determine to “*read*” the Bible so we can “*understand*” what it intends for us (Eph. 3:4).

Steady Bible study keeps one from swallowing destructive false teaching. Study hard!

4. Regularly

Commune. The early disciples did. Acts 20:7 reports “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...*” Each week has a first day, so we can know they regularly observed the Lord's Supper. Those who consistently forsake the assembling cannot be constant in their duty to “*eat this bread, and drink this cup*” (I Cor. 11:26).

5. Regularly Give.

Paul authored, “*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come*” (I Cor. 16:2). As we give, we do so “*as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*” (II Cor. 9:7). A good example of this was a widow gave sacrificially (Mk. 12:41-44). Those who steadily absent themselves from the assembling injure both their own soul and the local work of the body.

HAVE YOU LEFT THESE?

Larry R. Ping II

Leaving is a part of many aspects in life. Consider the calling of the apostles.

When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, “*they straightway left their nets, and followed him*” (Matt. 4:20).

When Jesus called James and John, “*they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him*” (Matt. 4:22; Mk. 1:20).

When Jesus called Matthew, “*he left all, rose up, and followed him*” (Lk. 5:28).

In fact, Jesus would say, “*Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life*” (Mk. 10:29-30).

Have you thought about the need to be leaving these things?

1) Father & Mother.

Jesus, in answering the questions of the Pharisees said, “*For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh*” (Matt. 19:5). He repeats this in Mk. 10:7. Later, Paul confirmed this when writing, “*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh*” (Eph. 5:31). One part of a successful marriage is the fact the would-be-husband and the would-be-wife understand they are “leaving” their parents’ homes to establish a new one.

2) Gift.

Upon the mountain Jesus said, “*Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift*” (Matt. 5:24). When brethren are at odds with one another, it affects the value of their worship. In fact, it invalidates it. Jesus’ instruction puts a priority upon mending the relationship, then coming and offering your worship. If today

there are issues between a member of God’s family and you, fix them!

3) The Ninety-Nine.

Jesus spoke of a shepherd who would “*leave the ninety and nine (sheep) in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it*” (Lk. 15:4; Matt. 18:12). This is a simple lesson from the Lord about the immense value of a lost soul. It is imperative someone who is lost is sought after. Let us not grow lax in our duty to help find and save the lost (Jam. 5:19-20).

4) The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ.

The Hebrew writer announced there was a time to be “*leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ*” and to “*go on unto perfection*” (Heb. 6:1). In Heb. 5:14, the writer notes there were those who “*ought to be teachers*” but had the need to be taught again. We need to be the sort who have mastered the basics and ready to move on to “*meatier*” matters. This only occurs as a result of diligent Bible study (II Tim. 2:15).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm