WE MEET ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT WHY MUST YOU BE HERE?

hen we have opportunity to meet with others of "like precious faith" (2 Peter 1:1), knowing the Lord is present in these assemblies (Matt. 18:20), where else would a Christian be? This is truly a most revealing question. It reveals the shallow depth of devotion one has to the Christ who died for their sins. This question tells on those who desire to be somewhere else; and, they show it by being somewhere else!

The Lord talked about those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Matt. 5:6). This is an attitude of heart exhibited by those who are going to heaven. Are you truly striving day by day after the Lord's way with the same intensity that a starving man does food or a parched man does water?

Second Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." To "study" means to "give all diligence" (expend every effort) to make sure you please the Lord. You're not pleasing the Lord when you put other things ahead of the church. To meet with the saints and 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. We study the Scriptures to be approved of God and not be ashamed when we stand before him in judgment. We want to be found living in accordance with his Word when he comes to call all things to an end (Acts 17:30-31). Is that not so with you? If not, then why not?

"But Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). This is a command to grow. How can we refuse to grasp the opportunity to do the very thing we've been commanded to do?!

Seriously, what else on this green earth is more important than God, truth, righteousness and your soul? "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" [Matt. 6:33]. We're not doing that when we choose to forsake the assemblies of the church [Heb. 10:25].

If we were handing out piles of \$100 bills you would be here. If a celebrity, sports figure, dignitary, or anyone else of interest to you was going to be present you would be here. If we were having a ball game or tournament you would be here. The "bottom line" of this question is basically this, people do what they want to do. That's true of all of us.

If you're one who must be begged, prodded and coaxed to attend church services, your heart and attitude is sick and needs a heavy dose of antibiotic called repentance. If you really want to go to heaven when you die, then you'll make every effort to accomplish that end. You know as well as I, that requires living a faithful Christian life. That's not done by accident. You can't keep a job that way and you can't stay in the Lord's good graces that way.

Brethren, if you put anything ahead of God, the church, the Bible, your soul, and think you're fine with the Lord, you're in for a rude awakening come judgment day.

- Garland M. Robinson