

Thank you!
Austin Watts...Again!
Today's speaker

Indio Informer

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Unless there is a special request...
Due to circumstances, this class is temporarily suspended

“Foundation Lessons” Class
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. at the church building
Will Resume Later

Oxidently Missing Worship Services

John M. Buttrey II

(Note: Another insightful article by John Buttrey...reminds some of us of Bill Brown Sr. years ago...I think)

Important Reason for Attending Services...

“Let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

One of the constant conflicts Jesus had with the scribes and Pharisees was in regard to what one could do on the Sabbath. There was the time they questioned Jesus when His disciples were picking and eating grain on the Sabbath (Matt. 12:1-2ff). They were again upset when Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath (John 9). There was the Sabbath when Jesus healed a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years (John 5:1ff). This upset the Jews. Luke records a Sabbath on which Jesus healed a woman who had been sick for eighteen years! This frustrated a synagogue official (Luke 13:10-17).

September Birthdays

11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales 16 Jim Burruss
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

Over and over, we find situations like these where Jesus did good on the Sabbath. Of course, these are the ones that are recorded for us. There may have been many more (cf. John 21:25). As a part of all these Sabbath confrontations with the religious leaders, Luke records an occasion when Jesus questioned them, “*Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?*” (Luke 14:3). To this question they gave no response. So, Jesus pointed out their obvious hypocrisy. And He said to them, “*Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?*” (Luke 14:5)

Matthew records the time when the Pharisees asked Jesus this same question. And behold, a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, saying, “*Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*”— so that they might accuse Him (Matthew 12:10). Jesus answered their question, with a question, to help them see the obvious answer to their inquiry. And He said to them,

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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“What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out?” (Matthew 12:11).

On still another occasion, Jesus was even more direct in His approach to this constant criticism He received concerning doing good on the Sabbath. But the Lord answered him and said, *“You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath release his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it away to water it?” (Luke 13:15).*

While the Sabbath was to be a day of rest, God recognized that there would be circumstances when one would have to do “work.” Rescuing a son, a sheep, an ox, or doing some other act of good on the Sabbath was not a violation of what God set forth as a Law.

As it relates to us today, there are any number of applications that can be made from these examples, one being in regard to our attendance to worship services. A sick child, an unavoidable work conflict, military service, an unsafe circumstance, or just some type of illness may prevent someone from assembling with the saints. We might think of these as “ox in a pit” situations. They prevent us from fulfilling the instruction to not forsake the assembly (Heb. 10:25).

Life is full of such unavoidable circumstances. All of us have had occasions when our “ox was in a pit.” God understands such things. However, when it comes to our missing the assembly of the saints, let us make sure it is never because we have deliberately pushed our ox into the pit.

Beware the Band Wagon!

By Joe Slater

A band wagon was a large, decorated wagon upon which a musical band performed, often at the front of a parade. As spectators applauded the musicians, other people might jump onboard and ride along, hoping to share in the glory. When the music stopped and the applause died down, however, the extra passengers would

jump right back off. Thus, the practice of joining any popular trend came to be known as “climbing onto the band wagon.”

In New Testament days, multitudes of people were converting to Christ. They faced the danger of the “band wagon” effect just as we do. Paul taught some of them: *“as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).* To work something out is to see it through to completion (think of “working out” a math problem – you cannot stop in the middle of your calculations, but must complete the process).

Happily, our brethren in the Jerusalem church were not band wagon disciples. Luke mentions four items (Acts 2:42) in which they continued steadfastly: The apostles’ teaching. First, they continued to be taught by the apostles. Second, they constantly behaved in keeping with what the apostles taught them. Being a Christian involves life-long learning and growing. When you stop learning and growing, you start dying!

Fellowship. The church is a spiritual family. Going it alone is next to impossible. The early church regularly spent much time together, sharing one another’s joys, sorrows, successes, and failures. When fellowship wanes, disciples weaken and may perish.

The breaking of the bread. We need constant reminders of Jesus and what He did for us at Calvary. The Lord ordained Communion (the Lord’s Supper) upon the first day of each week (Acts 20:7) for this very purpose. *“Do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19).*

Prayers. Paul wrote to the Colossians to *“continue in prayer” (4:2).* Jesus taught that we ought always to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). Did you pray yesterday? Pray again today! Did you pray this morning? Pray again tonight!

Let us not treat the Lord and His church like a band wagon. When we obeyed the gospel, we committed ourselves to a lifetime of faithfulness. May we continue steadfastly as the early disciples did!