

Why Go to Church?

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:5 – 8

5/23/21

Let us start out this Pentecost service exploring the question – Why go to church?

We probably hear a great deal of complaining about people not going to church these days. I think we should look at the reasons why people do go to church instead of why they do not go.

A century ago, it might have been correct to say that many people went to church because it was the conventional thing to do. They would have been greatly disturbed at the thought of not going to church. In that day, Sunday morning was church and nothing else. No business were open, no sports activities took place on Sunday morning, and we kept the Sabbath sacred.

Today I doubt there are many who attend church from a purely conventional motive. The truth is that those who now attend church regularly, even though fewer in numbers, do have a sincere motive. They are truly seeking something or someone, even if the goal of their quest is a little uncertain even to themselves.

So, let us this Pentecost ask ourselves why we attend church. I think there are five reasons:

To explore the first reason, let us look at this figurine. Do you know what this figure is? Godzilla

Godzilla is my favorite monster in horror films and this little figurine is a gift from my grandson, Grayson, when his dad, my oldest son, Josh, was stationed in Japan. By the way, you have to be careful saying 'Godzilla' out loud in Japan!

What is unique about this Godzilla is when sunlight hits Godzilla, his arms and mouth move! Godzilla seems to get excited by sunlight!

So, the first reason why we go to church should be because the 'Son' light excites us and brings us joy. The 'Son' light causes us to move our arms in Christ service and the 'Son' light causes us to move our mouth to proclaim Jesus' good news. We go to church because we seek Jesus and the joy Christ brings.

The second reason we go to church is to worship God. You do not go to church to hear the minister or to hear the lovely music even though I wish the first was true and the second is definitely true because the music is lovely. Both of these do what they are meant to do. Preaching and music help us worship God. So we go to church to worship God.

The third reason why go to church is to find forgiveness. There is no way a family, a church, or a nation can live in community with others except by forgiveness. Mistakes, injustice, and sins are inevitable. Forgiveness is the only way out. But for the grace of God and also the grace of men, we could not live.

Many people do not find pardon because they really do not seek it. They have no sense of sin. Unless we have a real sense of sin, felt either as a personal burden or as a shared feeling of guilt, we find no reality in the offer of forgiveness.

The truth is that modern man tends to give sin a more attractive title – it is not sin, rather it is man's inhibitions or man's complexity or man's perversion. We must know that we need forgiveness and that is why we go to church to seek forgiveness.

The fourth reason why we go to church is to find fellowship. There is a wonderful feeling being in a church. I have often felt this way – *As soon as I crossed the doorway of the church, I felt that I was among friends!*

If the people in the church would spend more time praying and loving each other, and less time gossiping and finding fault in others, they would find a greater fellowship. Even strangers and wayfarers would sense this feeling of fellowship.

This feeling of fellowship will override the allure of voices and causes calling you elsewhere because fellowship in a church has a true power and strength.

And the fifth and final reason why we go to church is to find spiritual power. People go to church because the only comfort for them is God. Not a remote God who is far away, but a God who came down to earth in human form and suffered like us. People go to church to find all their deepest longings satisfied when they find God himself.

God is the goal toward which our spirits move. God is the reality behind the dreams of all people. God is the answer to all our prayers!

I truly think God is pleased with our worship. God has made a lovely spiritual garden here at the Bethany Beach CC (DOC). Our words and actions have helped the church grow.

The person who looks up to God is constantly being remade in the image of God. So let us constantly look up to God and his most holy Son, Jesus Christ, and we will be remade in the image of God.

Our hearts need to go up to God in adoration and our image will be of God. So my answer to our question today – Why go to church are five reasons:

#1 – for the excitement and joy church brings

#2 – to worship God

#3 – to seek forgiveness

#4 – for the fellowship that church offers

#5 – to find spiritual power

Jesus is our supreme master of the art of living and he could not live without God. CAN YOU?

Let us pray:

O God, help us to seize every opportunity to know you better. Help us to look forward with hope and confidence. Give us the vision to see the grandeur of worship which could be the crown of yesterday and the root of tomorrow. May you, O God, be our goal toward which our spirits move. AMEN.