

Basic Training Lesson 8.2
A Faithful Steward – Part 2
Faithful to our Soul
(Why We Need the Church)

*Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and **thither thou shalt come:***

- i. Introduction
1. We are returning to the subject of Basic Training that we started on in February, where our focus was discovering Bible truths that are the foundation of what we believe, and what defines us as a church.
2. We have discussed basics like the importance of prayer for our daily living, sometimes called survival prayer.

3. We also dealt with prayer warfare to show us how to take a position of authority against the devil and his works.
4. We talked about the very important topics of how the Bible is our trustworthy source for truth, and how Jesus is the only God, Creator, and Savior.
5. We have talked about Bible salvation, what Jesus meant when He said you must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, and what it means to walk in that new life.
6. We spoke about the importance of worship and gave several examples of what biblical worship looks like.
7. Our last lesson introduced the topic of being a good steward of what God has given us. We started that off by discussing how God owns all, He gives us our needs, and also asks us to honor Him in return by giving to His kingdom.

8. We discussed the Bible principle of giving the “tithe of all,” 10% of what God has given to us, and also special offerings. This was introduced in the Book of Genesis and continued with Jesus saying we should give the tithe and offerings.
 9. But not only does God ask that we be good stewards through tithing of our resources, today I want to introduce what it means to be a good steward of our soul.
 10. Some of these basic training topics are not only basic to understand who we are as a child of God, they also become part of our duty as a believer.
 11. There are just some things that we **should do** in our Christian lives to keep us on the right path. Pray, learn the Bible, attend church, worship God, giving. They are not merely suggestions but our duty.
- ii. Church attendance

- A. Thither thou shalt come
 - 1. So today we will look at that verse we began with regarding our duty to regularly assemble together to worship God.
 - 2. This duty actually began with a commandment:
Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:
 - 3. God gave this command to His people, Israel, at a time when Israel did not even have a home.
 - 4. They were on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land and had not even taken possession of the place that God would choose to put “his name there.”
 - 5. Yet in time, King David made the city of Jerusalem Israel’s capital, and that became the place where God’s people would gather together at regularly scheduled times.

6. Of course, we don't have the option of regularly gathering in Jerusalem, yet we still have God's command echoing down through the ages: "thither *thou shalt come.*"
 7. We see in time how that commandment became our call, and yes, our duty, to gather at regular times, to worship God, because God wants our worship.
- B. Jesus' example
1. As we would expect, God not only commanded it, but also demonstrated it.
 2. Jesus is our perfect example, and a careful examination of His life shows that He gave a priority not only gathering at the synagogue, but also to daily prayer and the Word of God.
 3. He rose up early to pray, stayed up all night to pray, and prayed throughout the day. And Jesus made the Word of God a high priority by using it when confronted by the

devil or by religious leaders, or when teaching the people.

4. Looking in the gospels, they reveal that Jesus made a regular practice of coming to the synagogue at the scheduled times:
*Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom was**, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*
5. **[slide] Custom** is from the Greek word, **Ethos**, to be accustomed, used to, prescribed by law.
6. The word **Ethos** has even slipped into the English language, and English speakers use it refers to the character or spirit of a culture, the underlying sentiment, customs, practices of a group, the dominant assumptions of a people.
7. For Jesus, it was just assumed that you would show up at church and read the Word. What a good example of good habits to follow!

8. It is worthwhile to point out another habit Jesus had with regard to arriving at church. He showed up **early**:
John 8:2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.
9. And because Jesus came early, so did the people:
Luke 21:38 And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.
10. The people found it important to arrive early because Jesus also arrived early and they wanted to hear from Him.
11. And I can tell you from personal experience, arriving early allows us to prepare our hearts to start listening to Jesus, and to get into the ready-to-receive mode.
12. When we are rushed, late and anxious, it takes a while to move into that spiritual listening mode where we can hear and

receive from Him. And we don't want to merely be a spectator at worship time, but be all in!

13. Plus, when we are rushed, late, and anxious, those distractions make it harder for us to be able to minister to others.
 14. It is a wonderful thing that Jesus still has a custom of coming to church regularly:
Matt 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
 15. And I'm sure you have found that Jesus shows up in our midst, not just when we gather together at church, but wherever we gather together in His name.
- c. Continually in the temple
1. Faithfulness to God's house is God's commandment, it was Jesus' custom, and is also the apostolic way.
 2. For after Jesus' resurrection, His apostles followed Jesus' example by showing their

own faithfulness to God's house:

Luke 24:52-53

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

*53 And were **continually in the temple**, praising and blessing God. Amen.*

3. We are talking today about being a good steward of our soul. An important key to being a good steward of your soul, is to get it into the presence of the Lord in worship.
4. What we can call consistent church attendance, became the habit of those early apostles:
*Acts 2:42 And they **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
5. Other translations use the phrase, "they devoted themselves" to this regular gathering. In other words, they saw it as their duty to gather regularly to worship and study God's word.

6. And gathering together regularly holds us accountable to others, and it allows us opportunities to minister to others, and allows others the opportunity to minister to us.
7. And the reality is, our soul needs that ministry time in the presence of the Lord. And the more opportunities we give our soul to participate in this group assembly, the greater our soul benefits.
8. Yes you can have great prayer times in private settings where it is just you and Jesus. He can fill your soul with a full tank when you hide in the presence of Jesus, in the shadow of the Almighty.
9. We should make sure we have those times on a daily basis as much as is possible.
10. But that regular gathering together was not just something that was good for Jesus' apostles and the early church, it is especially important to us in 2023 as the coming of the Lord draws near.

11. For that private prayer time alone at home is properly considering our soul, but let us also consider how we need one another in these times:

Heb 10:24-25

*24 And **let us consider one another** to provoke [motivate, stir up] unto love and to good works:*

*25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting [encouraging] one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

12. It was true even in the days of the early church that there were those who had gotten out of the habit of gathering together regularly, but the verse says, “don’t be like them.”
13. There you see the benefits we receive when we do come together: we motivate others to love and good works, and we encourage

one another. Those who do not come, their soul misses out on that.

- D. Church is a gathering of God's people
- 1. You may have heard someone say, "I don't go to church, but I love God and talk to Him all the time. That's all that's really important."
- 2. I'm not sure what version of the Bible they found that message in. It is not in the Holy Bible.
- 3. When Jesus said He would build a church and the gates of hell could not prevail against.
- 4. When the Book of Acts said the Lord added to the church daily those being saved.
- 5. When it further said great persecution came against the church in Jerusalem and was scattered into other cities.
- 6. When it also said the Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch when revival spread there.

7. When it also said the church gathered in the house to pray for Peter.
8. When it also said Paul appointed elders in the churches they started.
9. All of these are just a handful of the many references that describe the church as a group of people gathering together on a regular basis.
10. The church is not a solitary person, all alone in the woods, meditating on God. But a gathering together of the members of the body of Christ.
Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
11. We are members of one another, the body of Christ. And when the body comes together, we can see how the body heals itself.
12. The scriptures tell us in several places how that happens: we receive one another, serve one another, greet one another, love

one another, be devoted to one another, honor one another, live in harmony with one another, build one another, edify one another, and on and on.

13. For the church to function as a church, we must gather together like a body—with one another.

III. Body Building

A. Introduction

1. We saw how individual members of the church are together called the “body of Christ.” And using that analogy of a body, the scripture also instructs us on ways we build the body of Christ. We are body builders!

2. Because the things that one member suffers with, we will all suffer with:

1 Cor 12:26-27

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

3. And Jesus warned the church of Sardis to:
*Rev 3:2 Be watchful, and **strengthen the things which remain**, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*
4. There are some works—some exercises—the church can engage in to strengthen the body. The body needs exercise to build up the strength of our hearts to keep them from failing in these last days:
Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.
5. We need one another!
- B. Called to Build
 1. We are called to build lives; not to tear them down.

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the

*things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may **edify** another.*

2. **[Slide] Definition:** Edify comes from the Greek word, oikodoma, oikos: house, home, building; doma: roof top. So edify literally means: building up. ↑

3. When we come together, our purpose is to edify, regardless of your spiritual gifting (even though you may think your “gift” is suspicion, putting people in their place, telling it like it is):

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

4. No one is called to tear down. Even those who serve in the five primary ministry roles have the purpose of edifying:

Eph 4:11-12

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some,

prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

5. That shows the high level of importance of our gathering together. Why do we emphasize coming together? It gives the opportunity to do the “work of the ministry” that aids in perfecting and edifying one another.
 - c. Joined tightly
 1. One of the marks of a healthy church is something that Bro. Leal preached about on Wednesday night.

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 2. A body is more healthy when its working parts are kept together. Within the church family, we maintain unity by our strong commitment or bond, to peace.

3. When we are dedicated to keeping peace, we are more assured of having unity among us.
4. And all individuals are important to the whole because each supplies something critical to the whole—as in the human body:
*Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together [closely joined together and organized compactly] and compacted [to coalesce, unite, knit in mind] by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh **increase of the body** unto the edifying of itself in love.*
5. There are 11 different yet interconnected systems of organs in our bodies that all contribute to our wellbeing: circulator, respiratory, digestive, excretory, nervous, endocrine, immune, integumentary, skeletal, muscle, and reproductive systems.

6. These all have very different functions, yet they are fitly joined together and compacted for a singular purpose: our survival.
7. Likewise, the church, when we are fitly joined together and every part works together, it maketh increase of the body by edifying itself in love.
8. And when we come together in love and minister to one another, it separates us from the idea: “It is all about me.” No, it has to be for the good of the whole.
9. When one body part attacks another, medical science has demonstrated that is fatal to the whole.
10. And it has also demonstrated that when one part of the body becomes weak, it becomes necessary for another part of the body to bear the weakness of another part.
11. If the left leg is broken, the right leg “**steps up**” and bears the load of the weaker part.

12. If we break our right hand, the left hand, which might normally be our weaker hand, has to “**get a grip**” on more things than normal.
13. So when there is a weakness in a brother or sister, step up and get a grip. You are part of a body whose role is to come to their aid in time of need.

Rom 15:1-2

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

IV. Conclusion

1. Although church attendance is a duty, it is a duty that brings blessing and privilege:

Ps 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my

life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

2. *James 5:13-15*

13 Is any among you afflicted [suffering hardships]? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.