

Two Kinds of Workers

by Greg Gwin

Those who run businesses and hire employees are always in search of the best people to work for them. In fact, finding good people to fill critical roles is one of the most difficult aspects of operating a successful enterprise.

Typically, there are two different kinds of workers. Some are only looking to draw a paycheck. They quickly analyze the job situation, determine the bare minimum that is required, and then apply themselves to insure that they do only enough to maintain the job and avoid being fired. The other type of employee really wants to do a good job. Their goal is to please the employer and do everything they can to make the business succeed. They will even sacrifice their own personal interests at times in favor of the good of the company. These people are the "cream of the crop," and they are the ones that every boss hopes to find.

In any church you can identify the same two types of workers. Unfortunately, there are those who want to find the minimum amount of work that is necessary. They want to be regarded as "in good standing," but they real-

ly don't desire to do any more than is absolutely required. A common question of such folks is this: "Where does the Bible say I have to?" They apply this question to things like Sunday night worship or Wednesday night Bible class. During gospel meetings you need not expect them to be present, because they don't see where the Bible says they "have to." Teach a Bible class? Visit a sick person? Invite a neighbor? Encourage a weak member? Show where the Bible says this is absolutely necessary, and they might consider it - otherwise, no way!

The other type of worker is faithful in all things. In fact, this type of member is not interested in doing the minimum. Such folks want to do all they can to help in the important work of the church. Need a volunteer? Looking for assistance, regardless of the job? Look to these people, for they constitute the working "core" of the congregation. They can be counted on in all situations, even when it involves sacrifice. Without them, the congregation would fail. God bless them!



The Auburn Beacon



Two Men Attend Worship Services

By Bill Hall

Two men attend worship services. The first man attends wholly out of a sense of duty. He understands the teaching of **Hebrews 10:25**: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," and is determined to obey faithfully that teaching. He will not allow anything within his power to stand in the way of his attending the worship periods of the church.

The second man recognizes his duty in this matter too, but his primary motivation in attendance is his love for the Lord and his joy in blending his voice and heart with other Christians in praise and adoration to the Lord. He delights in worship and the spiritual strength he derives through worship.

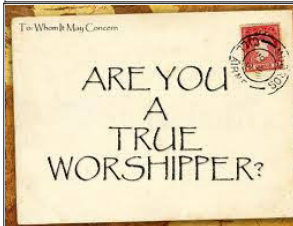
The first man is mentally passive throughout the worship service. If the words of the song happen to catch his attention, he observes and appreciates them. Otherwise, he just sings along with little concern for what he is singing. If the sermon is interesting, he listens. Otherwise, he just relaxes, and hopes the time won't drag too badly. He does meditate briefly concerning Christ's suffering and

Depth of meaning is of greater importance to him than a catchy tune or rhythmic beat. He listens to each phrase of the prayer that is led, and if he can approve the petitions of the prayer, he unites with the one who leads with his "Amen."

death as he partakes of the supper, for somehow the importance of the memorial feast has been impressed upon his mind.

The second man comes mentally prepared to worship. He pays close attention to the words of each song and makes the sentiment of the songs his own sentiment. In fact, he sometimes studies the words of frequently used songs so he will be sure he understands their meaning. Depth of meaning is of greater importance to him than a catchy tune

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Thoughts to Ponder

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (John 4:23)

Elders

Walker Davis (334) 703-0050

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

News and Notes

- ☒ - Ron Russell's brother, Jesse, appears to be declining in hospice care in Montgomery.
- ☒ - There is a meal list for Chuck Durham's evening meals next Mon-Wed.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, was able to be moved to rehab at UAB!
- ☒ - Brandon Hester's grandfather, Jackie Richardson, is expected to go home Monday!
- ☒ - Nestor and Clara Bermudez will be arriving from Columbia on Tuesday and will be in Auburn working with the Hispanic brethren!
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Cheryl Carthel, Kristen Diehl, Megan Hester and Rachel Simpson.
- ☒ - Brooke Perkins' uncle Bobby had successful surgery to remove a kidney and is home recovering well!
- ☒ - Debbi Coleman's dad, Earl Mitchell, was able to go home this week!
- ☒ - Please consider parking on the grass!
- ☒ - Laura Matlock, David Simpson's sister, who will have surgery for breast cancer on Jan 22.
- ☒ - 2 of Brooke's friends are suffering from brain cancer: Tim Tucker is waiting for more info and Kendal Decker is receiving treatments.
- ☒ - Scott Perkins had successful Lasik surgery this week!
- ☒ - Chris Long's grandmother, Mavis Hale, broke her hip and will have surgery this morning.
- ☒ - Please continue to pray for Abbie Harrison who is having serious back problems at this time.
- ☒ - We begin our meeting with Chuck Durham today! Please freely invite all to come! Cards are available to hand out.

Classes This Week

Sunday Evening College devo at Jared Johnson's home. Chuck Durham teaching.	Saturday 6-8 PM 1-5 grade at Crawford's home	Saturday 6:30-8:30 PM 6-12 grade at Walker Davis home
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January Birthdays			
Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Emery Anne Vest (Patsy's grandniece)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Robert Collins (child of Walker's co-worker)
Betty Bradford	Amy Call (Seth Humphrey's cousin's wife)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Matt Bishop (friend of Long's)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Landon Grace (Seth Humphrey's nephew)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Jesse Russell (Ron's brother)

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or rhythmic beat. He listens to each phrase of the prayer that is led, and if he can approve the petitions of the prayer, he unites with the one who leads with his "Amen." He discerns the Lord's body as he breaks bread, and he listens carefully to the sermon, volunteering his attention, hiding the word in his heart, that he might not sin against God (**Psalm 119:11**). If his mind wanders occasionally, he brings it back to the worship. He worships with a consciousness of God as the object of his worship, the One toward whom these expressions of adoration are directed.

The first man reduces his service to a mere code of external rites, while the second man obeys "from the heart," combining the outward with the inward. The first man is more likely to be satisfied with his service to the Lord, for he has accepted the easier standard, but it is the second man who enjoys God's approval. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (**John 4:24**).

Two men sincerely try to worship. The first man, though, is frustrated throughout. His frustrations begin with the opening announcements when the man in charge takes ten minutes to say what any normal man could say in three. He is hardly over that when the song leader adds to his frustrations, selecting a song he is sure contains an unscriptural phrase. The man who presides at the table doesn't help when he uses the term "loaf" instead of "bread," and then the man who is called on to "give thanks for the bread" gives thanks for everything but the bread. The preacher makes a major contribution by totally misapplying a passage of scripture ("He probably didn't spend enough time on that one," the man thinks). When the worship period is finally dismissed, he tries to share his frustrations with those around him, but no one seems to care.

The second man observes many of the mis-

takes the first man observes. In fact, without fanfare he just doesn't sing the questionable phrase in the song and he silently thanks God for the bread when he realizes the leader's failure to do so. But while observing mistakes, he focuses attention on the good sentiments of the songs that are used, and on the death of his Savior during the Lord's Supper. He makes the prayer that is led his own and appreciates the good thoughts presented in the lesson. He has come to worship God. He makes allowances for human frailty on the part of the leaders in worship, appreciates their sincere efforts, and refuses to let their mistakes keep him from his purpose.

The first man is to be pitied. His ability to "worship" is dependent on the ability of the leaders in the worship period, and any half-observant person knows how inept that leadership can be at times. He comes to worship, but spends the hour criticizing. He blames others for that which is really his own problem. Consequently, his problem with worship becomes a problem also with his brethren; but one cannot have a problem with his worship and his brethren without having a problem in his relationship with God.

The second man, by maintaining a positive attitude toward his brethren, even when they make mistakes, is able to worship acceptably and is drawn closer to God by his worship.

In which of these two men do you see a reflection of yourself? The need is obvious! We must cast off our laziness and indifference, revitalize our spirits, and bring ourselves to worship God acceptably. There is a considerable difference between mere attendance of a worship service and truly acceptable worship. I am not condoning sloppily conducted worship periods. Leaders in worship should seek to avoid mistakes and to do their work effectively. But acceptable worship depends far more on the heart and attitude of the worshiper than on the abilities of leaders. Our first man may point the finger of blame at others, but his real need is a total change of attitude within himself.



Making Plans for the Days Ahead

By Robert Hines

Now listen, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, to him it is sin" (**James 4: 13-17**).

In this passage we are being warned about sin. But what is the sin being condemned? Is it making plans for today? Is it making plans for tomorrow? Is it moving to another city? Is it being there for a year? Is it doing business there? Is it making money? No, it would not seem so from the Bible. There is nothing necessarily wrong with any of these things. In fact, the Bible condemns sloth and laziness as just "a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest" (**Proverbs 24:30-34**), saying that suddenly poverty "will come on you like a bandit" (NIV).

What then is the wrong if it is not the planning? It appears to be leaving the Lord's will out of the planning! Those dreams, hopes, and plans for today, tomorrow and the future need to be guided by God's will at the center of our lives. It can "completely outfit" or "thoroughly furnish" us for every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). It is "everything we need for life and godliness" (**2 Peter 1:3**). Whatever plans we make, then, have to take into careful consideration whether they are at odds with the Scripture. And if we do not then we are sinning because we are being guided by something else, by our own wisdom, instead of applying the Lord's wisdom to our lives. James says it is a form of boasting and bragging, and it is evil.

This lack is what we may call a sin of neglect. It is not like actually committing a sin as when we lie or steal or hate. It is one in which we omit or neglect to do something that we ought to do, like speaking up for the truth, or sharing what we have, or loving our neighbor as ourselves.

With some thought we can see how this is true:

– Mom and Dad are sending their boy off to college. They know it's a good school but have no idea about the character of the nearby congregation...

– Here's a young girl considering a proposal of marriage. She knows he's handsome and has a good job and money, but not much about him spiritually...

– A family is considering a move to a town for Dad to have a better job, but it is a very worldly place...

– An older couple is going to move down south to a lovely retirement community, but don't know if a congregation is near...

What is needed in each of these situations? It is a genuine concern for the Lord's will from a heart that will put His will into the practice of their everyday life.

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James says such planning is a good thing to do! He said why earlier: "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (**James 1:21-22**).

