



Today's Sermons

Morning: Hope for America!

Evening: Comfort & Hope in Suffering

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	32
Sunday AM Worship	53
Sunday PM Worship	32
Wed. Bible Study	38
Offering	\$1776

What Heaven is Like - Part 3

CONSIDER THE POPULATION OF HEAVEN

WHO WILL BE THERE?		
GOD WILL BE THERE <hr/> JESUS CHRIST WILL BE THERE <hr/> HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE THERE <hr/> ANGELS WILL BE THERE	FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS WILL BE THERE <hr/> REDEEMED OF ALL THE AGES WILL BE THERE	THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE THERE REVELATION 20:15
WHO WILL NOT BE THERE?		
THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST WILL NOT BE THERE	THOSE WHO NEVER OBEYED CHRIST WILL NOT BE THERE	THOSE WHO DID NOT REMAIN FAITHFUL WILL NOT BE THERE

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people . . .

Are you prepared?

Source: Bible Church



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:.... 10:00am
 AM Worship:..11:00am
 PM Worship:....6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

We Extend A Warm & Cordial Welcome To All Our Visitors!

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF A STRONG CHURCH?

by Jimmy Young

Christians are aware that God is not pleased with and will reject a lukewarm church (Rev. 3:14-16). Every congregation of the Lord's church is required by God to be strong. Some in the church have wrong standards for judging the strength of a congregation. This was evident in the first century (Rev. 3:14-16), and it is evident today.

There are some things which are not essential for a congregation of the Lord's church to be strong. While it is our responsibility to give as God has prospered us; it isn't riches that make the church strong (1 Tim. 6:17-19). Large numbers aren't evidence that a congregation is strong, yet numbers are important for each person is important. Numbers alone aren't the indicator that a church (congregation) is strong biblically speaking. God did not choose Israel because they were "more in number than any people;" they were "the fewest of all people" (Deut 7:7). Only eight people were saved during the flood (Gen. 7; 1 Pet. 3:20).

A few strong in the faith is greater than many who are weak in faith. Worldly wisdom isn't a sign of strength either (1 Cor. 1:17-31). A nice and suitable building is okay and has many advantages, but it isn't the evidence of a strong church -- the church can be strong without a building.

Listed below are seven characteristics which are evidence of a strong church (congregation):

Continued Inside

(1) The evidence of a strong church is a well-taught membership. You will find its members are able to teach others and are doing so. We are warned about not doing such (Heb. 5:12-14). A strong church has a desire to grow spiritually (1 Pet. 2:1-2).

(2) The evidence of a strong church is that it is rich in faith. We will be like the church in Rome "known by all" (Rom. 1:8). The rich in faith can accomplish much.

(3) The evidence of a strong church is one that is faithful and pure in its worship to God. Their faces are upon God and His will -- He is worshiped in spirit and truth (Jno. 4:23-24). A strong church is always steadfast in its worship (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 16:1-2).

(4) The evidence of a strong church is that it stands for truth (Jno. 8:31-32). They are always ready to defend the faith (Jude 3). They, like God, do not tolerate false teachers, but will "mark them and have no fellowship with them" (Rom. 16:17). They "test" (try) any teacher or doctrine to see if they are indeed teaching Christ's doctrine (1 Jno. 4:1). They will know what others teach and act accordingly (Rev. 2:2).

(5) The evidence of a strong church is that it truly lives as Christians should. Its members keep themselves unspotted from the world (Jas. 1:27). Its members are the "salt" and "light" of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).

(6) The evidence of a strong church is it is biblically unified. Strength is found in unity (Prov. 30:27). It's possible to be strong in being unified, yet be wrong biblically. The true Christian knows it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell in unity (Psa. 133:1).

(7) The evidence of a strong church is that it is working. They are involved in supporting the gospel and those who labor in it (Phil. 4:14-17). A strong church is aiding those in need. They are always ready to do good works (Acts 11:27-30). The church will have to be strong in the sight of God to please Him. It requires each member to do his/her part; for in doing so, we can and will do much for the cause of Christ. The evidence of a strong church is abundant for it supplies the necessary evidence.

RELIGIOUS, BUT NOT SPIRITUAL

by Gary L. Hutchens

There is a difference between being truly spiritual and just being religious. I suspect that many people have a difficult time clearly differentiating between the two concepts. Most people probably equate "religious" practices with being "spiritual." But a person can be religious without being truly spiritual. However, a person cannot be truly spiritual without also being religious. A truly spiritual person will be a religious person, but a religious person may not necessarily live a truly spiritual lifestyle. Allow me to illustrate by way of a purely hypothetical scenario.

A teenaged boy is the son of deeply committed Christian parents. Respecting his parents, he attends every church service with them. He dresses up in his Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes. He bows his head during public prayers. He puts some money in the contribution plate. He even picks up a song book and sings along in the song service.

But the only reason he's there is because his parents expect him to be there. He doesn't really want to be there. If they didn't require it of him, he wouldn't be there. He finds church services frustrating and boring. He spends every sermon wishing the preacher would hurry up and get finished so he can leave and do something he really wants to do. He goes through a lot of religious exercises, probably more than many church members. But, with his present mindset, would you say he's a truly spiritual person?

Some people believe in God but have no desire to be a part of what they call organized religion. By that, they mean they don't want to be involved in any church. They may read the Bible regularly, occasionally, or not at all. They've developed their own personal concept of being a "believer" that allows them to be comfortable following God their own way while doing their own thing. They insist they don't need to be in a church building to be close to God. From an objective perspective, it's a pretty self-serving belief system. Can such a person be considered truly spiritual?

A truly spiritual person's life is purposefully and consistently focused in a spiritual direction (Rom. 8:5-6). It is his mindset (Col. 3:1-2). The most important aspect of his life is his spiritual life. Indeed, all of his life is directed and guided by his spiritual beliefs. He doesn't try to take God's place and call the shots as to what he wants faithfulness to be but surrenders to God's will as revealed in scripture (Gal. 2:20; 2 Tim. 3:15-17). For a truly spiritual individual, his faith is not just an aspect of his life, his faith is his life!

True spirituality is not just an intellectual belief system. It's not just the exercising of religious practices. It's not just going through the right motions, saying the right words and putting on the right appearance. True spirituality is a mindset that directs every aspect of life, a mindset that understands the deep meaning of being created in God's own image. It is a mindset that is dedicated to serving God faithfully every day. It is a mindset that is focused like a laser beam on getting to Heaven.

Are you living a life that is truly spiritual, or are you just being religious?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nov 4 – Men's Business Meeting (Budget Meeting) & Ladies' Bible Class
- Nov 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell