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## Neglect of God's House.

Neglect of God's house marks decline in religious life and is one of the characteristics of the backslider. Those who are wilfully guilty of it will be found to be in spiritual deadness or decline. If we wish the religious life of ourselves and households to be strong and expanding, we will be careful to maintain our places in God's house. Where God records His name, God will be present, and so will be His people.

When Jeroboam tried to break down the Israelitish character and make them his ready tools in doing evil, he not only set up a separate kingdom, but kept the people from attending the temple services instituted by God. "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem," he told them as he set up heathen shrines near to their homes and encouraged and commanded them to attend these places and remain away from God's sanctuary. And this was one of the early and sure steps that led on to their deterioration and destruction as a people.

The best and worthiest and most substantial life of our own people and nation is found in those who delight in God's house and worship and who are found regularly in the services of the sanctuary. It is a matter of the gravest concern when an individual neglects God's house or when there is a tendency toward a general neglect of this holy and important privilege and duty.

It is not a question as to whether a certain minister is liked or not. It is not a question as to whether the Church is beautiful and its music artistic and its services delightful. These are matters of secondary importance. The prime essential is that the soul shall meet God in the way of His appointment and worship Him, in company with other Christians, in the sanctuary. Where God is thus worshiped, every good element in life flourishes, and all that is desirable for human welfare finds advancement. Where God is neglected and His sanctuary is despised, there is threatened dark disaster, and swift judgment is on its way to execute the divine displeasure. It cannot be well with those who part company with God.—  
Herald and Presbyter.