

WHY DO NOT MORE PEOPLE ATTEND CHURCH?

And Why Do Not More Church Members Take An Active Part In Church Work—Several Pastors Give Their Views on the Subject.—Several of Them Think That Attendance is Greater Than is Suspected But Might Be Greater.—Reply to Questions.

"Why the church is losing ground," "Why men do not go to church," "Why the pew is empty," and dozens of other subjects like these are being discussed in press and pulpit over the country. Some investigators arrive at some conclusions and some at others. All, however, agree that men and women do not take that interest in the affairs of the church on a whole as its importance would seem to warrant. Why is this? Is there anything wrong with the church or its methods? Are people more sinful and less religiously inclined than formerly? Is there anything wrong with the ministry? No doubt these questions are not as acute in the South and particularly in our own section as in many other parts of the country. Nevertheless, there is room for plenty of thought, and in order to begin a discussion that must be profitable, for healthy discussion is always profitable. The Journal some time ago addressed a letter to many of the members of the ministry in the county, and asked them to write a short letter in answer to these two questions:

1. Why do not more people attend church regularly?
2. Why do church members not take more interest in active church work?

It was stated that when replies had been published from some of the ministers, the question would be opened for discussion in the columns of The Journal for any one who might like to take a part therein. Some of the ministers paid no attention to our request, but the following gentlemen sent the following courteous letters:

Church Not Deeply Interested.
I send the following answers to your questions:

1. Why do so few people attend church regularly?
(a) The church is not as deeply interested in those outside as it should be. They are not solicited or invited to attend. And often when they do attend they are not as cordially treated as they should be, and made to feel at home and welcome.
(b) It may be that some feel that they cannot dress so as to not to feel embarrassed.

(c) It is doubtful that very many are deeply indifferent; and prefer to spend their time in social pleasures, in visiting or riding, or in reading the daily papers or in just resting, as they say.
(d) Conditions are unfavorable. Sunday sickness is common and contagious. The weather is against church going. It is too cold or too hot, too wet or too dry. The preacher is not attractive. He is too young or too old, too long or too slow, too loud or too low, too proud or too plain, or old foggy, or insane, etc.

2. Why do so many church members take so little interest in the church work?

(a) The worldly, or secular spirit, largely prevails. They are too busy with their own affairs to give thought and time to the work of the church.
(b) They are not as deeply interested in the cause of Christ as they should be; they make it secondary to their worldly interests and to their personal ease and pleasure.
(c) With some social and fraternal organizations have taken the place the church should occupy in their minds and hearts, and they have just been drawn away from the church and have largely lost interest in all its activities.
(d) At the bottom of all these excuses there lies the real reason, namely, a lack of full consecration to God, or a love of sin.

J. H. Weaver.

Need the Old Time Gospel.

In reply to your question as to why so few people attend church I want to say first that I think the question was suggested to you on a very rainy night. If you were to attend our Sunday school and some of our night services when the weather is good I think you would ask the question, "Why do you Baptist not have more room, especially for Sunday school purposes?" Is it a fact that fewer people attend church than formerly? I think more people attend church than ever before. Formerly we had fewer churches and preaching once a month. And then, when we had preaching, large crowds gathered from far and near. Now, many of our

churches have preaching every Lord's day and most of them have Sabbath schools. In the last few years our churches have increased about eight fold. So if you would multiply our average by eight I think there would be more people by far than formerly attending church. Besides this, many of the churches practically have three different congregations every Lord's day.

Nevertheless there are many people who do not attend church. How can we reach the non-church going people is a great question. I believe the best way to reach them is to follow our Lord's injunction in the parable of the lost sheep, "go after them until you find them." Then when we have gotten them to the church preach to them the old time gospel and rely upon the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin and save them from sin.

The second question is more serious, which is, "Why actual church members take so little interest in church work?" And yet, the church is doing far more than she has ever done before. But the work is being done by a comparatively few.

I greatly fear that the preachers in the desire to count numbers are somewhat to blame for the spiritual condition of the church. Laid afraid we have not preached repentance and regeneration. Hence we have many un-generous members in the churches. The best way that I know is to return to the "old paths and walk therein." When church members shall give themselves wholly to the Lord "then Zion shall travail and sons and daughters will be born into the kingdom."

Very truly yours,
Briston Craig.

Attendance Good.

My answer to your question, "Why people do not go to church," is that they do. Not as many go as ought to, but the showing is better than to realize. I just happened that on Sunday, April 9, of this year an investigation was made in our own famous churches scattered throughout the United States and it was discovered that these churches which have a total membership of 17,000, had 10,000 persons in attendance, and what is more encouraging still the proportion of them exceeded the ratio in membership that the Census Bureau has established.

If the same ratio of attendance to membership holds good throughout the country, and I see no reason to suppose it does not, there were present in all Protestant churches in America on that Sunday 28,000,000 persons. So for the country at large the showing certainly warrants the assertion that people in large numbers are going to church.

It must be admitted, however, that church attendance is not all that could be desired. In our own town it is far from what it ought to be. This is due I believe:

1. To a lowered regard for the Sabbath. Too many of our people use the Sabbath for pleasure or for business trips, for which they are unwilling or regard themselves unable to take the week days.

2. A failure to realize the importance to themselves spiritually of the worship of God's house. Many have no just conception of their privilege or duty in this matter and attend or not as the mood of the hour may suggest.

3. A spiritual indifference that is too apparent to be denied. They have too little spiritual life to care for the services of God's house.

Sincerely,
R. F. Kirkpatrick.

Has Shallow Hold.

As I have been asked to give my views as to why people do not attend church, I wish to say that my people do very well a long that time. But as I see it, real church going religion has a very shallow hold on the people. The young people are seeking what they call pleasure and many fathers and mothers are encouraging them in their course. But the ball ground, the picture show and the club room are well attended.

The cause is the lack of old time genuine religion that leads people to church and to God.

In the olden days the church offered about the only opportunity that people had to associate together and they went to church

Not so now. I do not think the trouble is with the preaching. The great trouble is in the hearts of the people. They just do not want to go, that's all.
Respectfully,
R. H. James.

The Secret is in the Bad Example at Home.

I am glad to write on the subject under discussion, with the privilege of saying, first, that I believe more people attend church than attend all other public gatherings. There is a church in every community, with five or more services per week in towns and cities, and one to three services per week in towns and there were a theatre, circus or ball game in each community open to the public from three to six times per week I am sure that they would not attract as many people as attend the various churches. The church presents the same subject year by year and attracts two-thirds of an ordinary people.

However, I believe the reason that more people do not attend church and take an active part in its services is that many have a mistaken idea of church and religion. They think of it as a kind of fire escape to be used in time of danger and death. There are a few who are kept from church by actual poverty. Others are kept from taking part in church work by what they term inability, their poverty or ignorance of what to do.

Many stay away from church on account of a false pride. They are not able to dress as well as others, and while they desire to attend church their fear of criticism outweighs their desire for church privileges.

But the secret of the whole matter is to be found in the want of proper training, and the bad example set children in the home. I know of but few families who were reared by church going parents who are not church goers now.

Respectfully,
J. H. Bradley.

The Journal will be glad to print the ideas of any others on our general subject. Have the pleasure and honor to say

Right in your busiest season when you have the least time to spare you are most likely to take diarrhoea and lose several days' time, unless you have Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy at hand and take a dose at the first appearance of the disease. For sale by all dealers.

Valuable Lands for Sale.

North Carolina—Union County, Matilda Alsobrooks et al. vs. James Perry et al.

By virtue of an order of the clerk of Superior court of Union county, made in the above entitled proceeding, which is a proceeding for the sale of the hereinafter described lands for partition among tenants in common, I will, on

Monday, September 4, 1911,

at 12 o'clock m., at the court house door in Monroe, N. C., sell to the highest bidder upon the terms hereinafter mentioned, the following described lands, to-wit: Lying and being in Monroe township, adjoining the lands of C. N. Simpson, Erwin Modin and others bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake by a pine and p. o. Modin's line, and running thence S. 65.54 W. 12.40 chains with said line to a pine stump in said Simpson's line of his lot; thence S. 8. B. J. Whitley's corner in said line; thence with said Whitley's line S. 88 E. 13.50 chains to a stake in said line; thence with the division line between this and the balance of the Steeles tract N. 6.25 W. 25 chains to the beginning, containing 391 acres more or less, being the lands conveyed to John F. Perry, now deceased, by W. H. Puffer and wife by deed dated 22nd March, 1898, and recorded in the registry of Union county, N. C., book of deeds 27, page 538, etc., reference to which is hereby made for more particular description of said lands. Sold subject to dower rights of Amanda Bland, widow of John F. Perry, deceased. The reversionary interest in said dower rights will also be sold. Terms of sale: one-third cash, remainder on a credit of four months; title retained until all of the purchase money is paid in full. This the 31st day of July, 1911.

R. W. LEMMOND, Commissioner.

Notice.
Having qualified as executor of the last will and testament of J. F. Haywood, deceased, notice is hereby given to all parties holding claims against said testator to present them duly authenticated to the undersigned, on or before the 5th day of July, 1912, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will make prompt settlement and save costs. This July 4th, 1911.
DAWSON B. HAYWOOD,
RECEVE HAYWOOD,
Executors of J. F. Haywood, dec'd.
Stack & Parker, Attys.

Oxford College
OXFORD, N. C.
FOUNDED 1850.
Literary, Music, Art, Business and Teaching Courses.
Bachelor of Arts Course enlarged by one year's work.
Bachelor of Science Course omits Latin after Caesar, Mathematics after Algebra, and requires only one year of French, retaining full English, Science, History and Moral Science Courses of the B. A. degree.
Board and general tuition per year \$166. Apply for Illustrated Catalogue.
F. P. HOBGOOD, PRESIDENT.

Farm for Sale.

Exercising the power of sale in a mortgage deed conveying the tract of land hereinafter described, executed to us on the 8th day of August, 1908, by M. D. Whitley and wife, which said mortgage deed is duly registered in the office of the register of deeds of Union county, N. C., in Book AM of mortgage deeds, page 3 and following, we will, because of default made with regard to paying the bond secured by said mortgage deed, on

Saturday, August 26th, 1911, at the court house door in Monroe, N. C., expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, a certain tract of land lying and being in Union county, State of North Carolina, on the waters of Rocky river, adjoining the lands of A. P. Turner, T. L. Meigs and others, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake on the bank of Rocky river on the lower bank of the ford, A. P. Turner's corner, and runs S. 10 1/2 E. 6 chs, and 29 links to a stake on a drain by a dogwood; thence 17 W. 3 chains to a stake; thence S. 45 W. 30 chains to a blackjack in Meigs' line; thence with his line S. 80 E. 27 chains to his corner, a stake, blackjack and oak pointer; thence N. 10 1/2 W. 3 chains and 10 links to a stake by three pines and hickory; thence N. 63 E. 26 chains and 50 links to Smith's corner; thence with the line to the river; thence up the river to the beginning, containing ninety-eight (98) acres more or less. Terms of sale cash.
J. P. HILL, S. E. HILL,
W. L. PARKER, J. J. PARKER,
G. W. BREWER, M. C. BREWER,
Mortgagees.
Adams, Armfield & Adams, Attys.

Mortgagee's Sale of Land.

By virtue of the power contained in a mortgage deed, executed to W. E. Williams, July 6th, 1910, by Cora A. Moore and husband, A. B. Moore, and assigned to us by said Williams, said mortgage being registered in Book AM, page 477, etc., in the office of register of deeds of Union county, North Carolina, we will, on

Monday, August 28th, 1911,

at noon, at the court house door in Monroe, North Carolina, sell for cash to the highest bidder at public auction, the following described lot of land, with buildings thereon, lying and being in the City of Monroe, county of Union, State of North Carolina, adjoining the lot of Lonnie Helms on the north, Burke street on the west, Joseph A. Helms' lot on the south, the Vann Helms property on the east, being all of lot No. 2 in block S, of the Monroe Land & Improvement Co.'s addition to the City of Monroe, except three feet along the south side of said lot, and being the lot conveyed by Joseph A. Helms and wife to Cora Moore by deed dated July 6, 1910. This property will be sold to satisfy the provisions of said mortgage deed, July 24th, 1911.
THE BANK OF UNION,
Assignee.

DOCTOR H. D. STEWART
PHYSICIAN, MONROE, N. C.
If you desire my services, call me through medicine phone 341; office phone 257. Office hours 11 to 12, 4 to 5. A. M. and from 8 to 9 P. M. Address over Union Drug Company's, See Directory LATERAL AVENUE.

Dr. R. L. Payne
PHYSICIAN
Residence Phone No 273-R.

W. B. HOUSTON,
SURGEON DENTIST,
Office up stairs, Fitzgerald Building,
Northwest of Courthouse,
Monroe, N. C.



An Over-Turned Lamp

a match stepped upon, may be the means of destroying your house any day. You are no more exempt from fire than any one else. Have us issue you that fire insurance policy today. To-morrow may see your house in ruins and you the most bitterly regretful man in the country.

PHONE 209.
Gordon Insurance & Investment Co.

MONEY PICKED UP

You simply pick up money when you go to our stable for Horses and Mules and Vehicles. A car load of Horses just in from the Western markets, and all good broke and satisfactory workers. Come quick and get one.
BUGGIES. BUGGIES.
Don't lose money by going elsewhere and buying something "just as good," but come along and buy a Buggy backed up by \$64 cash guarantee and you'll wear a smile every time you ride. Remember everything is as represented.

E. M. GRIFFIN AND CO.

Shirts! Shirts!

We have a lot of the popular Geo. P. Ide, Silver Brand Shirts, the \$1.00 and \$1.25 grades that we are going to close out at 75 cents, as we have decided not to carry this line.
Come and Get a Bargain in Shirts.

Warm Weather Toggery

all here and waiting. The newest collars, the naggiest ties, the shirts that are too pretty to wear a waist coat over. If style is what you seek come right here and find it.
Quality, Too, of Course.
We don't handle the stuff that goes to pieces after one or two launderings.

To Be Candid With You

we are much surprised ourselves to be able to offer you such smart apparel for so little money. Somebody is losing money somewhere we are sure. It is not we and it certainly won't be you if you buy one of these suits at present prices. We do not even hope to be able to duplicate this offering.

Crow Bros.' Cash Store.