

January 2008

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# Lo<sup>o</sup> The<sup>o</sup> Ou<sup>o</sup> Righteousness

## Why Do We Go To Church

Elder Charles Moore

Why do we go to Church? Not 'why do we go to church on Saturday rather than another day' but 'why do we go at all?' There are many reasons why we go to church - some good, some bad, some in between. Last month we looked at two good reasons for why we should go to Church. The first reason was: We meet Christ in a special way in church. Celebrating the goodness of the Lord in the company of His people makes the music richer and the teaching fuller. God is present in a unique way in the gathering of His people and we cherish those moments with Him in the company of other believers. The second reason was that Church is where we find completeness. We don't all do the same jobs. But we are all important. We may not be the people in the spotlight but we matter. Our service is incomplete without the others. Their service is incomplete without us.

I will be covering one more reason this month for why it is important to go to church and to be a committed part of a church family but it is a big reason. Our involvement in a local church gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for God and it shows the world which side we're on in at least three ways. First we demonstrate our love for God by our commitment to weekly worship. We give our time to the things that are most

important to us. When we make our weekly meeting with God a priority in our schedule we demonstrate the Lord's importance in our lives. When that weekly time is regularly sidestepped, we also demonstrate the lack of the Lord's importance in our lives. A little old man was seen walking every week to church. He was deaf, so he could not hear a word of the sermon or the music of the choir, or the hymns sung by the congregation. A scoffer asked, "Why do you spend your days in that church when you can't hear a word?" He replied, "I want my neighbors to know which side I'm on!" Our commitment to weekly worship speaks volumes to a watching world . . . and our watching God.

Second we demonstrate our love for God by our service to each other. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the famous story of the sheep and the goats. The way he separates the sheep from the goats is separating those who showed love to Him in practical ways and those who didn't. Speaking to the sheep, He said, **"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...;**

**"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 'And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' (Matthew 25:34, 37-40)**

Our service to others, our acts of kindness to others are acts of kindness to the Lord Himself and the Lord is paying attention. We learn the importance of performing acts of kindness in practical ways at church and have a wealth of people to practice on in church!

Third we demonstrate our love through our giving. In the book of Malachi, God asks a penetrating question: **"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings. "You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. (Malachi 3:8-10)**

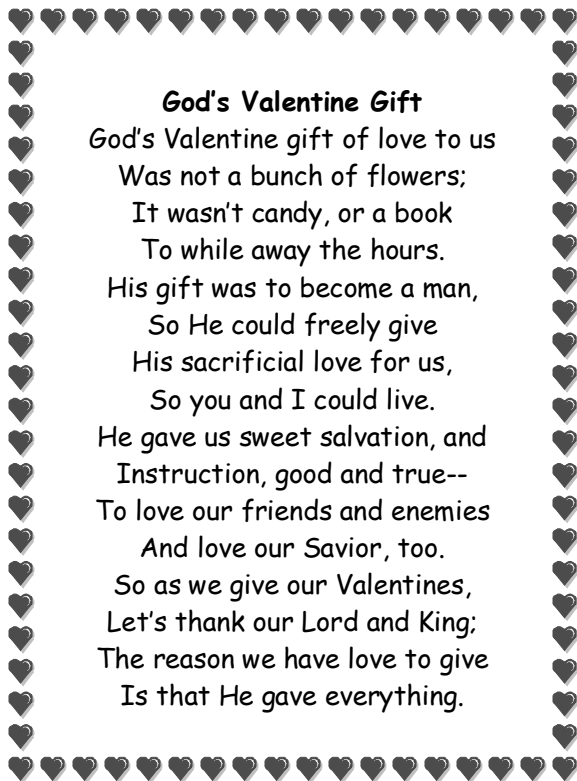
In this passage the people are charged with robbing God. Why? Because they are not giving God the 10% of their

*(Continued on page 2)*

income that He has said should be given to Him. He owns it all and He only wants 10%. And the 10% is to be given to the "storehouse", the temple . . . today the storehouse would be the church. Extra gifts are to go to extra places, but the tithe is to go to the church. The tithe enables the church to be sustained, ministries to be funded, missionaries to be supported, and needs to be met. Not only this, when we give God the first portion of our income, we prove our love to Him and "open the windows of blessing" from God.

Our checkbook says a great deal about our values. God is honored when we honor Him in our finances. What does our checkbook say about us when we: pay the cable bill, the Internet bill, the house payment, the car payment, buy new things for ourselves and our homes yet do not give God His ten percent? What does it say when we pay our bills but only TIP God?

The church gives us the opportunity to show our love for God in tangible ways through our attendance, our service and our giving. Remember the church is not a building . . . it is a people, who have been forever changed by God; who have joined together to bring honor and glory to the One they call Lord, Savior and King; who have come together by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit to be the arm and legs of Jesus. May God help our family grow and may He be honored in all that we do.


  
**God's Valentine Gift**  
 God's Valentine gift of love to us  
 Was not a bunch of flowers;  
 It wasn't candy, or a book  
 To while away the hours.  
 His gift was to become a man,  
 So He could freely give  
 His sacrificial love for us,  
 So you and I could live.  
 He gave us sweet salvation, and  
 Instruction, good and true--  
 To love our friends and enemies  
 And love our Savior, too.  
 So as we give our Valentines,  
 Let's thank our Lord and King;  
 The reason we have love to give  
 Is that He gave everything.

No doubt about it. 2008 is going to be great! For one thing, at the local church annual business meeting this month, we elected two great representatives. Dave Fedor will serve a dual role on the local and United Church Board and Melinda Begeman will begin her first term ever as a local representative! We are very privileged to have good people to serve on the local and United Boards and could not do the things we do without willing servants to fill all the jobs at church. We also took time this month in prayer for the long-standing and heart-felt friendships we have had with fellow believers from other churches, including our friends at the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day and the New Hope Baptist church.

We have been praying for several people we know: Tom Chuhran who is very ill with leukemia and his wife Judy; Jim Goins who had been hospitalized last month and still needs our prayers; Brother Don Daniels who has been having bouts with kidney stones; Marcia Moore; Sally Fruchey who is back on a respirator; Bosco Moore; Dale Begeman who has not been feeling well; and Joel DeHaan's father who is recovering well from heart bypass surgery.

Peggy Charles, who has served as cabin counselor, nature leader and numerous other roles in her lifetime had been looking for a job in her field of nursing. We were happy to learn that she has been offered a job to begin in February. When God provides us with employment He provides us with a very good gift to meet our needs and give us opportunities for friendships and ministries. Congratulations!

Charlie and I got to spend two weeks in southern Arizona and *nearly* were able to try to set up a rendezvous with Ken and Karla Coll (who were in town to scout out a convention site for Ken's employer). I had gone on the trip feeling a little under the weather and by the time I was well, Ken and Karla were off to Florida. However, we got to visit with Sally Smeltzer so Sally filled them in on her visit with Ken and Karla while filling Charlie and I up with Chicken and Sliders (wow, she's a good cook!). We also had a wonderful visit with Ellen Momberger at her recently renovated housing complex. It is just an amazingly wonderful place to live, with beautiful western art themes, interest areas, landscaping, her own guest humming birds, and every conceivable amenity a senior housing complex could have. We saw Kane and Jennie Begeman for a wonderful breakfast date and then again at Jon and Berty Lane's house for an evening of dinner and games (after seeing Scott play hockey at the ice rink and visiting a bit with SheaLynn who played soccer earlier in the day). While all this was going on, Elder Tim Begeman faithfully held down the pulpit in Monroe as he taught on and even showed art work depicting Hell. By all accounts, his sermons as usual were informative, scriptural and thought provoking.

Thanks to God, we can look forward to heaven with Him. So, until next month, may God be with you and you with HIM.



Kerry, Kathleen, Leanne &amp; Jon



Leslie, Tom &amp; Rebekah



Leanne ready to cook!



Smeltzer Clan

Cyberspace News [genevabegeman@charter.net](mailto:genevabegeman@charter.net)

The month of January has been cold, but the activities have kept us all warm inside and out! The first weekend in January Kerry, Kathleen and Leanne Johnson were at church with Leanne's fiancé Jon. It was indeed a special occasion for them as Kathleen's grandfather was celebrating his 100th birthday. He is in good mental and physical health. I had gotten to meet him about a year ago and what fun it was to talk to him. He was driving at that time. The family had arranged to have a big celebration and the grandchildren were present from all over.

A couple of weeks after that, Leslie and Tom Miller were with us from Bel Aire, Kansas to introduce their new daughter Rebecca. She was a very good baby during church and it was so nice to see them and to hear everyone oohing and aahing over Rebecca. She certainly is a keeper Leslie!

The new Phoenix chapter of our church had a visiting pastor this month as Charlie and Aurine Moore vacationed in Tucson. They drove up to the Phoenix area and were able to see Kane and Jennie Begeman and Jon and Berty Lane one day and then Ellen Momberger and Sally Smeltzer the next day. They had a great time with the Arizonians! They arrived home just in time for our present cold snap. Aurine said the temperature dropped 10 degrees as they drove home from the airport (about 20 miles)! I guess that was not such perfect timing.

The Smeltzer family were able to all be at church together in December. Carrie and Joel DeHaan were praising God for Joel's father coming through heart by-pass surgery with flying colors. Carrie reports that medical school requires much hard study.

Deborah and Jim Stoner have been busy as well as everyone on our list. When I talked to her she told me that Karen Dorsey's granddaughter Cora is not happy with the stork these days as she ordered a baby sister and just found out she is getting a brother. Those boys at pre-school play too rough for her. Cora is 3 and I am sure she gives her Mom, Daisy, and grandparents many a chuckle. Our best wishes for you, Daisy, as you await that May baby. Dorothy is slowly recovering from the knee surgery. All the Laytons are mourning the loss of a young cousin who just died of cancer. Our sympathy to each of you.

We started the month with Leanne Johnson visiting and will end with a beautiful shower held for her in our church basement the last weekend of the month. Her mom's twin sisters, Lynn and Laura, hosted the event and it was indeed a lovely shower. Out-of-towners Kay Nevil, Lynn Vaughn, Peggy Charles, Laurie Eckles and Sally Smith were among the attendees. Leanne is a happy outgoing bride to be. The wedding is scheduled for early May in New Jersey where the Johnson's have lived now for several years.

As I write this news the snow is beginning to fall and we are getting ready to leave for the winter retreat. We look forward to this retreat and hope for the best weather we can get!

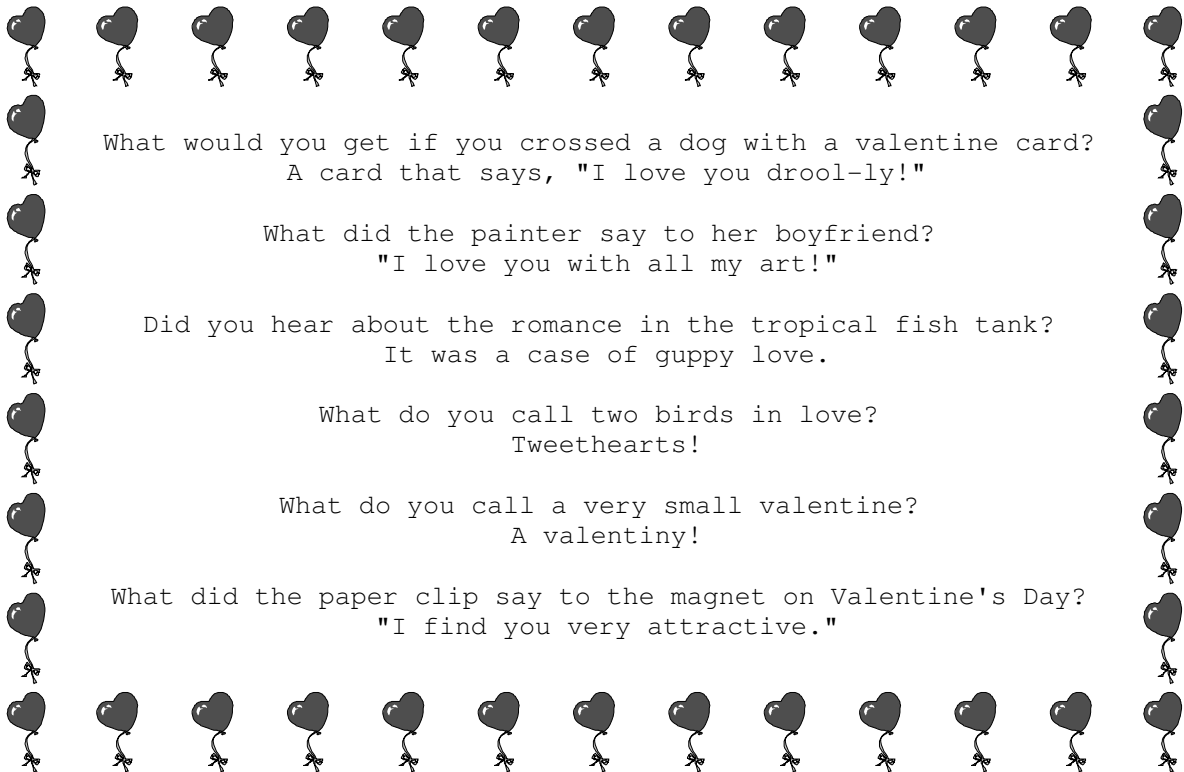
**CHURCH OF THE  
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What would you get if you crossed a dog with a valentine card?  
A card that says, "I love you drool-ly!"

What did the painter say to her boyfriend?  
"I love you with all my art!"

Did you hear about the romance in the tropical fish tank?  
It was a case of guppy love.

What do you call two birds in love?  
Tweethearts!

What do you call a very small valentine?  
A valentiny!

What did the paper clip say to the magnet on Valentine's Day?  
"I find you very attractive."