



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark • pastor@NAOG.ws • 610-262-5645

Why Go To Church?

A church goer submitted a letter to the "Letters to the Editor" section of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a big controversy which went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. **But I do know this:** They all **nourished me and gave me the strength I needed** to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. **Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!**"

Christian believers live in a sinful society bent on ignoring God and His ways. To counteract the continuous wearing down of their faith, believers need **spiritual encouragement** and **support** of those who "have obtained like precious faith" (2 Peter 1:1). Scripture states, "***Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ... Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching***" (Hebrews 10:23-25). This **focus on eternal things** is a **primary reason for going to church**. Believers are **spiritually refreshed** as they **sing the inspiring hymns of the faith**, hear the **victorious testimonies** of fellow-believers, "***pray one for another***" (James 5:16), and are **nourished from the Word of God** through pastors whom God has charged "***to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood***" (Acts 20:28).