

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

This section removed to preserve member's privacy

**Radio Programs:** WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM  
WQAZ 101.5FM every Sunday at 5:30PM  
(WQAZ CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT 98.5 FM)

**Website:** [www.beckleychurch.com](http://www.beckleychurch.com)

The *Carriage Drive Messenger*  
is published weekly by the  
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Editor: Bob Pulliam  
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### TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday:** Bible Study 10:00am  
Morning Worship 10:50am  
Evening Worship 6:30pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



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## THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT TONIGHT

by Bob Pulliam

**Y**es, there is going to be a big fight tonight. Two sides will square off, and enter into a struggle for dominance. Yes, it concerns the big game tonight; but I'm not talking about the game itself. I'm talking about the struggle some have with serving God, or watching a football game. Some churches will cancel services. Just a part of their catering to the human spirit. Others will put the game on a projection system, and coordinate their services with half-time. But when all is said and done, either God will win this battle, or He will have taken a back seat to human will.

So this fight is not between two football teams. It is a battle between worldliness and godliness. In some places, it will be apparent by the format of the services (or lack thereof). In other places, it may be apparent in individuals who decide to stay home. Even though they would probably be home before much of the game was played out.

So what side will you be on for the big fight tonight? Will you send God to the bench, or let Him have the rule over your heart?

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T ATTEND?

by Dee Bowman

**N**o matter how hard the effort to deny it, attendance is an indication of faithfulness. No matter how many excuses are made, the lack of attendance is an indication of disinterest. And no matter where the blame is placed, the failure to be at services finally is a matter of one's own personal choice. Most people would be amazed (if not entertained!) at some of the excuses given to explain a lack of attendance when a simple statement that "I didn't want to come" would very likely state the real truth of the matter.

I am convinced that if people would soberly reflect on the implications of not faithfully attending, they would intensify their efforts to be at all the services. Please allow me a few lines with which to call to your attention a few of the many adverse things which happen when you don't attend like you should.

### *Your Influence...*

You rob the church of your influence. One of the ways we let our light shine is by showing others our interest in the things which are spiritual in nature. How is it that others see such interest if we don't attend the services? It is obvious to those who come under our influence what is important to us and what is not, and the way we attend is a sure indication of such. The church cannot impress the world if those who are its members are not interested enough in that effort to faithfully attend the services. And furthermore, while you may deny it as an indicator of interest, the world (yes, even the world!) recognizes your alignment of priorities by where you give the greatest amount of attention.

### *Encouragement...*

You rob others of your encouragement. Even if you don't need to worship God (which you do), and even if you already know all you need to know (which you don't), and even if your attendance would not in some other way help you be a better Christian (which it would), you still must think of others and what you can do to encourage them. Other Christians draw great strength from being together with one who share their faith, love of truth, common goals. And if you don't attend, you rob them of this very special kind of encouragement. There are few things that encourage a church more than having all the members present at the services. And few things are more discouraging than to know that many who profess to

be faithful members are not in attendance.

### *Personal Edification...*

One of the things God assigned to facilitate our personal growth and advancement is the assembly of the local church. In that assembly we commune together in the Lord's supper, sin praises to God, pray, give into the common treasury, and learn God's will for us. In all these "exercises" we are built up and strengthened in our spiritual being. This personal strength is then used to glorify God in our lives and to lift up our Saviour as the answer to the needs of all men. Furthermore, we need the strength derived from the personal up-building so that we can overcome our adversary, the devil. Failure to attend robs us of this energy.

### *Opportunity to Glorify God...*

The person who seeks to glorify God will not be ashamed of His ways, His truth, His people. He will stand with the faithful. And how can he stand with the faithful if he is not ever with them? How can a person glorify God when he does not attend the worship services regularly? How can you glorify, exalt Him, show your devotion to Him when you lie up in bed on Sunday morning or mow your lawn when others are assembling, or stay home with company, or when you go fishing at the time of the services? How can you glorify God when you don't attend like you ought?

One of the signs of disinterest is a failure to attend the services regularly. Deny it if you must, but it is a proven fact. Failure to attend is a sure sign of spiritual deterioration, an open admission to spiritual mismanagement. Brethren, let us help one another to remain strong. In the interest of the saints, let us "consider one another to provoke unto Love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." (Heb 10:24-25)

(via The Cy-Fair Appeal)

### *Something to Think About...*

**A Christian shows what he is by what he does with what he has.**