

Where Are the People on Sunday?

It is not uncommon for us to have fifty or more people absent on any given Sunday throughout the summer. There are any number of events like small groups out camping, family reunions, softball tournaments, family vacations, baseball games, NASCAR races, traveling sports leagues plus other reasons too numerous to mention as to why someone might be missing on a Sunday morning. In a church our size their absence may not be felt like some smaller churches but when you stop and think about it, they are not in the service and what might they be doing on the "Lord's Day?" What can we do to help our people reclaim the Lord's Day?

We Need To Prepare Throughout The Week For The Lord's Day

Saturdays growing up on the farm I would hear my father say, "Boys, remember to get things ready for the Lord's Day." What we needed to do on the farm on Sunday was prepared ahead of time as much as possible. The cars were cleaned and filled with gas. On Saturday evening we sang worship songs and discussed the Sunday Bible lesson. In our minds the Lord's Day was so important that we anticipated its arrival. Today instead of preparing ahead of time it seems to have become a catch up day for many. Some are catching up on sleep, or some other activity that got put off till Sunday.

Leadership Corner

WITH MEL SHETLER

Don't Fight The Good Stuff

In this world of hurry and packed schedules family time is at a premium. Going camping over the week-end can do wonders for family bonding time. New people are assimilated into the church by small groups camping out together. Unchurched people have been brought into the church because someone invited them along on a campout. They never knew Christians could be that real and have so much fun! Don't fight the good stuff, bless and encourage these kinds of events!

We Do Need To Tear Down The Idols That Are Profaning The Lord's Day

Nehemiah threatened to "lay hands on" those who were profaning the Sabbath. The New Testament fills this Sabbath principle with even deeper meaning. I am sure the Lord is grieved with how Sundays are being spent today. Sports of all kinds are becoming the idol we build our lives and schedules around. Some pastors tell me they don't see some of their ball players most of the summer. There's a cultural war going on and our communities' values are knocking on the door nearly every Sunday saying, "Come out and play or come watch us play." We need to have the courage to confront these idols and seek to dethrone them to once again devote this first day of the week unto the LORD.

BB

Church Should Be An Experience To Be Missed

The pastor's favorite verse may be, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" but he may fail to realize the same context says that when we do meet we should stir up our people to love God and get motivated to do good things for others. (Heb.10:25) If church does not inspire our people to love and worship God as well as grow stronger in our resolve to live a holy life then our church is failing. I love to hear people acknowledge that they don't want to be gone on a Sunday because they don't want to miss out.

