

Southeast Sower

November 2018

Volume 33, Number 11

The Southeast Church Of Christ Meets At:

- 35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore OH 44260
- Phone: 330.628.7432

Services:

SUNDAY:

10AM Bible Study

10:50AM Worship

6PM Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:30PM Worship

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear Rom.
10:17

Believe Heb. 11:6

Repent Acts 2:38

Confess Matt.
10:32

Be Baptized Mark
16:16

Stay Faithful Rev.2: 10

“Ask Not...”

In 1961 J.F.K gave one of the most famous Presidential speeches. In his inaugural address he challenged the American public of that time to make America better when he said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what can you do for your country.” A profound challenge. This statement is comprised of two different attitudes that would lead to different results. The first part of this quote reflects selfish attitude, the individual is seeking for ways to benefit themselves. The second part of this quote reflects a self-less attitude, requiring the individual to put in effort and time to work towards the benefit of all.

Although time and style may change, society (in general) and behaviors rarely do. Sometimes it is a challenge to do what is best for all and not just what is best for ourselves (or what we think is best for ourselves). So, let us challenge ourselves to **Ask not** what the local congregation can do for us, **ask** what can we do for the local congregation.

Let's first look at how we can be selfish regarding our attitude towards the local congregation. Selfishness in worship is a personal matter and a mindset of each individual. In Colossians 3:16-17 we are told to “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

What is our attitude towards worship? What is our attitude during worship? These are important questions to ask and meditate on. If worship is not something we look forward to, or have personal desire to attend, then there will be serious consequences if we do not change our hearts. If we do not worship God in spirit and in truth, if we are not wholly committed to His service, then we are not serving Him as we should be.

When singing we need to be mindful of where our minds are. Are we drifting into thoughts about our plans after worship is over? Are we worried because the song leader led all 3 verses for the closing song and not just the first verse? Each song

John 4:24

"God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Matthew 6:7-8

"But when you pray, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your father knows what you need before you ask Him."

We Must:

Attend
Be Active in Service
Be Modest
Be Focused
Give Preference
Be Unashamed

has a message in it, are we aware of what that message is? Each time we sing we are to lift up and edify the other members. How can we do this if, mentally, we are not even there? When a prayer is led, again, where is our focus? If we are not committed to the worship service and have little desire to be there to serve our Creator, then why go through the trouble to be at services? That is where the selfish attitude is seen. James 2:14-26 is about how true faith will lead one to do godly works, and how our faith, if it is true, will be seen. Well, if we do not possess a true faith in God, then worship has become a mundane practice that we do with vain repetition. So, the selfish attitude looks at worship as simply a social function. This is when the local congregation is being used for some benefit of one individual, because the selfish one is only seeking their own interest.

Ask not what can the local congregation do for you, **ask** what can you do for the local congregation."

Worship is for the Lord. It is a time where saints come together to study, praise and thank the Lord. By worshiping the Lord with humility and completely we will find ourselves uplifted and encouraged because of the hope of salvation and the support of the brethren. However, we must keep focused on the purpose of worship; to give the Lord the praise and thanksgiving He deserves. To do this we must:

Attend the worship services (Hebrews 10:23-25), make the Lord our top priority. We must use our abilities and talents in any way and every way we can (Matt. 25:14-30). There are so many works to do for the Lord, so we should be actively doing the ones we are capable of. We must be modest. Modesty is a matter of the heart and reflects our true self. Before walking into the doors of the church building, what are we thinking of? We should, from the moment we wake up, be thinking of how the Lord views, not only our dress, but also our attitude. We must give preference to one another and be hospitable (1st Peter 4:9). And finally, we must always speak according to the word of God (1st Peter 4:11) and not be ashamed of the hope we have in Christ Jesus (Romans 1:16).

Here is the challenge: **Ask not** what the local congregation can do for you, **ask** what can you do for the local congregation....

Jordon Smith