

God Will Not Accept Excuses

by Bill Crews

Repeated many times since are the words of some wise person of long ago: "When we really want to do something, we will find a way; but when we really do not want to do it, we will find an excuse." How true! This has proven to be especially true of Christians who constitute a congregation assembling together to worship God or to study the Bible. Please read Hebrews 10:25 ("Not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is..."). As long as this is viewed as a burdensome and unpleasant duty, rather than as a pleasant and beneficial opportunity, this problem will persist.

There was the lady who was "unable" to attend so many assemblies and classes of a congregation, but many members had noticed that she seemed always "able" to attend any social functions -- picnics, showers, luncheons, parties -- planned by any of the members. There was the man who missed a service of a gospel meeting to go to a football game, but the same man wasn't about to miss a day of work even though sick with the flu -- the day of work was a holiday and the pay was double. I do not believe that God expects us to do what we cannot do, but He knows the difference between "cannot" and "don't want to." He also knows the difference between "an acceptable reason" and "just an excuse."

It does not look good at all when Christians are "able" to go to ball games, family reunions, movies or rock concerts, but "unable" to attend services and classes. It does not look good either when one is "sick" almost every Lord's day, but still "well enough" to go to work on other days. Let us be honest with God. He knows all the circumstances, and He will be our judge (Ecclesiastes 12: 14; Heb. 4: 13). Be ready to answer to Him. From a brother who cares, who will not be your judge, but who wants you to be ready.

250201