

What Have You Put Into It?

by Wayne Goff

The old saying that “you only get out of something according to what you have put in” could never be more true of Christianity. Too many brethren want an **easy religion** that requires little or nothing of them, while hoping that it will do them great good! Of course, nothing in this life works that way. And those who have been *deceived* into thinking that they can do *little* in their faith and be well rewarded are just that – **deceived!**

If **you** think that way, be sure that it was not the fault of Jesus Christ! He has given us abundant teaching, warning and admonition about neglect, indifference, and carelessness in our exercise of faith. For example, Jesus does not encourage those of “*little faith*” – even if was true of his apostles! Jesus did not say that when you come to Him, just “trust and lean” on His shoulders, and He will do the rest! Rather, He admonished us to (1) love God with all of our hearts (**Matt. 22:37**); and (2) deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him (**Matt. 16:24**)! That doesn’t sound like an *easy, convenient* religion, now does it? But there are many preachers, churches, and elders who will tell you that you are doing just fine in that lukewarm condition! They are more afraid of losing numbers than losing souls!

Dear reader, how much have **you** put into your religion? Have you put the kingdom of God first (**Matt. 16:33**)? Have you diligently sought out the truth in order to obey it (**Acts 17:11**)? Have you cleansed your body, your spiritual vessel, of every moral uncleanness (**2 Tim. 2:21**)? Are you “*steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (**1 Cor. 15:58**)? If the answer to any of these is “No,” then you might want to re-examine your life to see if you really are in the faith (**2 Cor. 13:5**).

This week of special meetings is an opportunity to *demonstrate* your love for God, your dedication to Christ’s church, and the privilege it is to be a child of God, sitting at the feet of a studied teacher of God’s Word. “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD’*” (**Psalm 122:1**). **Just remember:** you get out of it according to what you have put into it!

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