

“ For we know, brothers and sisters[a] beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.”

(1 Thess 1:4-5 NRSV)

Disciplines. They are hard to keep. For example, I have recently been trying to keep track of my eating habits as another attempt to get back to a “normal” weight my body is comfortable with. Keeping track works when I am disciplined, but when the weekend comes and there is a great football game on, the nachos and margaritas come out. There is no room for nachos and margaritas in the discipline! Well, maybe once...

Church events and weekly worship are also disciplines that often get disrupted by other weekend activities. Maybe you were in the discipline and the practice of going to church and then Covid -19 changed that discipline. This past year, with Covid, our normal routine and discipline of worshipping was disrupted. To help you, we began live streaming the worship services on Facebook each week. Many people appreciated the convenience of worshipping at home at whatever time they chose.

Now, as we have returned to “normalcy” with our worship services, we are experiencing a slow return of those who were once faithful in their worship. Changing habits, or returning to our old practices, don’t come easily. For our Saturday service we have recently brought back many of the things that make the Saturday night worship service so special such as the memorial candles, contemporary music, and preaching from the floor instead of the Altar area. Now all we need is You! **YOU know who YOU are!**

There are several steps we can take to re-establish the faithful practice going to church to worship and give PRAISE to our Lord!

- 1) Make worship a **HIGH priority** in your week – You need to make a decision that going to worship is something you NEED and WANT to do to make your life better.
- 2) **Schedule worship in your calendar.** For most people the calendar controls their life. Other activities will need to be planned around their priority. Keep the discipline! Just like having a doctor’s appointment, you are making an appointment with God.
- 3) **Remember others are counting on you to be there!** We know that accountability is important in achieving our goals. Volunteer to help with a ministry to make your presence important to others! Know that others are genuinely interested in seeing you! We are counting on you to be there!

We are all looking forward to the days when our church is full again and the faithful have returned to worship. We already had to set up a few more rows of chairs to give people more space to spread out and Praise the Lord!

AMEN

Pastor Tony