

## Members Who Weaken The Church

The strength of the church lies in her supernatural elements, her sure foundation, her divine cornerstone, and her resilient spirit. The weakness of the church lies in her human elements. The church is weak in proportion as her membership is weak, uninformed, insincere, or derelict in the performance of duty.

**NON-ATTENDING MEMBERS:** They are found in every congregation, and they form a very considerable group. Whatever explanation or apology may be offered for this situation, the fact remains that the influence of the church suffers heavily at the hands of its non-attending members. Little headway can be made with a membership that takes church attendance lightly. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

**UNINFORMED MEMBERS:** It is perfectly plain when a life has been "born again," its growth can be sustained and mature only through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. An uninformed Christian will become a weak and sickly Christian; an uninformed church, a weak and sickly church. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). Milk is for babes; solid food, for full-grown men. "Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature" (1 Corinthians 14:20).

**NON-SUPPORTING MEMBERS:** A church is strong or feeble, not primarily in proportion to its membership, but in proportion to its supporting members. The strength of a church is the number of active members — those who invest time, thought, energy, and money in its maintenance. The weakness of the church is in the number of inactive members. "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16).

*via Findlay church of Christ  
Sparta, TN*

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**October 16, 2016**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

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# The Philippian Jailer

By Ron Boatwright

In Acts 16:26-31 we read, "Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.' Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'" The people of the "faith only" doctrine want to stop right here and go no farther in the reading.

But why stop on verse 31? There is more to it than this. The jailer had asked the question in verse 30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Let's also look at the next three verses, which say, "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household" (Acts 16:32-34).

Notice verse 32 says they "spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house." Why? So they could believe. Before a person can be saved, he must first believe. But does belief alone save him? Are people saved when they only believe? What does the Bible say? In John 12:42-43 we read, "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed on Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Were these people saved? They believed, but they wouldn't confess Him. Jesus says in Matthew 10:32-33, "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." A person will be lost if he is ashamed to confess Jesus before men.

Then we also read in James 2:19, "You believe there is one God. You do well, even the devils believe and tremble." Are the devils going to go to Heaven because they believe and even tremble? I think not. If this is all that is required to be saved, then the devils are saved and will be in Heaven also.

Next notice the first part of verse 33 which says, "And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes". This showed that he had repented, because Jesus says, "Unless you repent you shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). One cannot be saved unless he repents.

Next notice the second half of verse 33 which says, "And immediately he and all his family were baptized". Notice the Bible says they were immediately baptized. Why? Why were they immediately baptized? Why didn't the church at Philippi first take a vote on them, to first see if they were worthy of their salvation, and then wait a month to baptize them (but not to be saved), but as an initiation ceremony to add them to and to join their particular denomination?

Notice after he was baptized, verse 34 says, "and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household". His rejoicing came after he was baptized and was saved, not before.

## Those to Serve

(B) Jeffrey Burks (FV) Vernon Houts

(O) Doug Prueett (A) Calvin Burks

1st prayer Judd Wall 2nd prayer Kyle Stifflemire

Announcements: Keith Stifflemire Singing: Mike Mallett

**Prayer List:** Naomi Wall , Mildred Lovell , Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

## Dates to Remember

**October 17th**

National Boss Day

**October 30th**

Noon Fellowship

**November 6th**

Mission Fund

**November 6th**

Daylight Savings Time



To

**Kyle Stifflemire October 21st**

**Mike Mallett October 21st**

**Ruby Jones October 24th**

## I've Never Known

1. A farmer who failed in life because he quit early to attend Wednesday night Bible lessons.
2. A farmer who became poverty stricken because he refused to plow on Sunday but rather chose to go to worship.
3. A business man who ever lost his business because he closed on Sunday.
4. Anyone who was too tired to go to worship on Sunday and also too tired to go to work on Monday.
5. A Christian to ever be strengthened by engaging in recreation when he should have been worshipping God.
6. Anyone ever being made better by staying away from the worship because he did not like someone who was there.
7. A strong spiritual Christian who neglected the assemblies of the church.

**Have You?**