

*Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.* **Philippians 4:1**

## **Store In My Heart** **James 1:5**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

God wants us stay faithful and overcome temptation. He has promised to provide what we need to do so. We do need to seek His help. He will not force it upon us.

James here tells us wisdom comes from God. If we truly believe He is God we can receive His help. Through Scripture He has revealed His will and with prayer and study we can understand.

Spending some time reading in the Book of Proverbs is a good place to start. The story of Israel will help us better understand God. Spend more time in the Word and more time in prayer, and wisdom will come. Wisdom is ours if we are willing to seek it. Are you putting in the effort to be wise in God's service?



# Congregational Loyalty

## Jim Sasser

Each Christian has certain very definite responsibilities to his home congregation. The Christian is not a free-lancer with liberty to drift from pillar to post without feeling any obligation to the local congregation.

Frequently, someone says, "I'm not a member of any particular congregation I belong to the universal church." This attitude usually reflects a desire to evade work and duty, and more often than not, it shows an inability to get along with people. How often it is said, "I just don't like the way they carry on over there."

The church is injured by "church tramps" whose energies are expended and whose talents are wasted by their incessant drifting to and fro. These unsteadfast souls are always drifting and shifting to where attraction is greatest and responsibility is least. If one Christian has the right to drift from one church to another---then all have that right, and if all used that right, then all would be "drifters" and none "workers."

While it is true that all Christians are members of the universal body of Christ, it remains that the only way to build up the universal church is to build up the local church. The only place that I can really use my influence for good is in the local congregation. It is here that I can work with and under the oversight of the elders of the church. It is only in the local church that the elders can "watch in behalf of the souls" of the Christians. If one Christian has the right to defy the oversight of elders, then all have that right; then their office is worthless and meaningless, and God's purpose then is frustrated. Without loyalty to my home congregation, I deny the autonomy of the

local church and upset God's plan for any orderly conduct and discipline of affairs in the church.

Christians should have the privilege of visiting with some sister congregation occasionally, but not often enough to weaken the work at home. The Christian must forego the pleasure and personal satisfaction that might be derived therefrom and base every choice upon what is best for the cause we love.

Every Christian owes his financial support to his "home church". If the local church is to plan and maintain a budget, then its leaders have every right to expect its members to be loyal, regular and unstinting in their support of its work. If one Christian can go elsewhere and give his money, then all have the right, and if all used the right then the work at home would fold. It is in the "home church" that we can best serve our Lord. Our talents are known and used, our influence can be felt.

(This article is a good compliment to the article printed last week. While it does not cover all aspects of being part of a local congregation, it does remind us of some important things we must consider.

I do not think I have ever known of someone who 'bounced' from one congregation to another, demonstrating substantial growth in knowledge or faith. With the stability of a local congregation, we can have structure and planning in the study of Scripture. Leaders can better serve brethren with whom they are familiar. The feeling of family and brotherhood is much stronger among those who work together the highs and lows that will certainly arise. I find myself thinking of a familiar phrase as I consider these things, "God's way always works." The closer we follow what God has designed for us, the better our lives and service to Him will be. Let us all work together for the common cause of Christ. Helping, encouraging, and strengthening one another through His Word. DLH)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Sue Soliday** is recovering from a recent fall. She has visited a chiropractor for help with that.

**Brenda Keisler** will see a neurologist soon due to her MRI.

**Ruben Keisler** has an upcoming appointment with the heart doctor and a surgeon for his elbow.

**JoBeth Henderson** is doing very well and taking charge of the kitchen and some cleaning this past week. Her cancer surgery on Monday July 6 should slow her down again.

**Tommy Robinson** should see his doctor again in July.

Sunday @ 5 - **Isaiah 62** Wednesday @ 7 - **Singing**