

# What Can You And I Say? (A Message to Christians Who Don't "Go to Church" Anymore)

By Wes McAdams



What was the name given to Jesus that means "God with us"?

There are many reasons Christians don't attend worship. One reason is, they can't. There are Christians who, although they want nothing more than to be in worship services with their Christian family, their health prevents them from doing so. My heart goes out to these brothers and sisters. This article is not for them; it is for those who "choose" not to be in worship...

Whether you've stopped attending because of your work situation, a family situation, maybe discouragement, some conflict with church members, or *any* other reason, the following thoughts are some things I hope you will consider:

**1. You Can Help Us!** Some people feel like churches are full of hypocrites. Well, I wouldn't say we're all hypocrites, but we're definitely imperfect. In fact, we're down right messed up sometimes! We are often inconsistent, insensitive, and incompetent.

But here is something you may not have considered: because we are so "messed up," you can help us. You can help encourage us to be better. You can help us see the shortcomings to which we've become blind. You can help by not giving up on us; just as God hasn't given up on you!

If you're a Christian, then we are all a part of the same body. If you're not with us – helping us – then there is a vital piece of our body missing. Speaking about the church (the body of Christ), Paul wrote, "When each part is working properly, [it] makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (EPH 4:16). Did you catch that part about, "each part working properly"? If you're *not* here, how can the body be working properly to help the rest of us be built up?

So, the next time you think about how messed up we are, remember you can help us be better.

**2. We Can Help You!** It's also a two-way street. Not only can you help us, but – believe it or not – we can help you, too. You may think, "I can live my Christian life just fine; I don't need to be an active member of a congregation to be a 'good Christian.'" If that's what you think, you may need to understand that you're actually contradicting God.

God designed Christians to have their spiritual needs met, *at least in part*, through His church. You can deceive yourself into thinking you don't need to worship, learn, serve, or fellowship with us, but you're lying to yourself. You need the church as much as any body part needs the rest of the body to survive.

Scripture says, "God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" (1 COR 12:18-21)

This is a hard statement, but we need to understand that when we say, "I have no need of you," that we're calling the Lord a liar.

**3. Our Salvation Depends on It!** Think about it, Jesus is the head and the church is the body (EPH 5:23), we cannot walk away from the body without walking away from Christ. If we want to abide in Christ, we must abide in His church (JN 15:1-17). Don't get me wrong, there's much MORE to Christianity than being faithful in "church attendance" and involvement. But we shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking we can be faithful and give up being part of the church.

Please read this entire passage and consider all the implications: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries" (HEB 10:23-27).

Faithful attendance and involvement are a *part* of our faithfulness to God.

It's not too late. You can come back. The rest of us will still be imperfect and we will probably still mess up. But most of us are really trying. You can help us, we can help you, and our salvation depends on us loving one another, worshiping together, and learning to put one another above ourselves.

Please consider coming back and being an active part of the Lord's church.



Have you seen the "IDEA BOX" YES? It humbly requests your kind "input"

**To all our visitors:** *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

*We are glad you decided to worship God with us!*

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** 2nd Sunday...

**Friday Bible Study:** 7 to 8 PM; we are studying New Testament commands that apply today...

**NMCCCH:** SOUP! Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken. Sounds YUMMY!