



Time Management

Recently some questions were raised about the duties that need to be fulfilled in the worship such as waiting on the table and other things. There are some weeks where a few of us are called upon to do several tasks during the services and concern about this being a burden was presented with a suggestion that we encourage some members to be more active. Over the past several years the numbers in the congregation have fallen. Some of the decrease was due to members leaving the area for other jobs. Some had been assembling with us due to problems in their home congregations and when these were resolved they went back. The largest reason for the decrease has been due to death. We have lost quite a few good brothers and sisters in the past two to three years and they are sorely missed. When I look at those who assemble with us I am reminded that everyone has demonstrated a commitment to the work. The neighborhood around us has changed, economic conditions have worsened and some are dealing with health problems that prevent them from doing more of what they would do if they were able. Looking at the numbers that we have in attendance and the degree of involvement I can say that I believe we have a good percentage of individuals who are either active in the services or have expressed a desire to become active. The number of men who are active in the services is near 100%. When we take a look at the degree to which we are active in the services we have to take a look at the total picture. There are **168** hours in a week. For those of us who work, or manage a household, that leaves approximately **128** hours, more or less, to do other things. Figuring that the average amount of sleep that we get in this country is closer to **6** hours per day instead of the recommended 8, we spend **42** hours per week asleep. That leaves **86** hours per week for other things. Of the remaining time we have to include all other activities including recreation and necessary things around the house. If we figure that we spend **4** hours per day in these activities that amounts to **28** hours per week leaving a remainder of **58** hours. We can add at least one hour per day for travel, 1 hour per day for personal care, 3 hours per day on meal preparation etc. giving us a total of **23** hours that we have left. This is an approximation of course but if we are close to the average we will fall into this range at some point. Now of that time we have to take a look at what we do as Christians. Supposing that we have **23** hours per week to use in service to God how much really gets utilized. We spend

about **3.5** hours on Sunday in services and another hour or so on Wednesday for Bible Study. That reduces our time now to **18.5** hours. However the percentage of time that we spend in services, compared to other things is minimal. It works out to about 2.7 % of our time. Of that 2.7 % of our actual participation, for the men, is even smaller, meaning that we spend less than 1% of our time involved in public activities in worship. Personally I view the ability to participate in the services as a privilege and enjoy being able to do what I can. The few times that I have been unable to attend (I had surgery back in 1995 that kept me out for 2 weeks) I feel very out of place. As Christians we should desire to do all that we are able to do publicly and privately. We should continually ask ourselves if we are doing all that we can, or should be doing, in the services. I believe the men in the congregation are to be commended for their degree of involvement. There is a greater need in smaller groups for higher participation and for the most part we have that. Not everyone has the ability to do some things. Paul even points this out in his letter to the Corinthians. ***“For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body.”*** (1 Cor 12.14-20). Are we doing what we can? Are we doing all that we are capable of ? Are we content to allow some things to be done by others while we sit back and take it easy. Is 1% of our time too much to ask to devote to activities in services? If we do not look forward to involvement in worship, and enjoy doing what we are able to, what are we doing when we are not together. Are we telling others about the gospel? Are we living as we should? Do we study our Bibles every day? Do we care? Is God pleased with us ? Only we know the answer.

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