

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Does “Casual” fit with “Serving God”?

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Our word, “casual” comes from the Latin “casus” meaning “chance.” The various definitions of the word “casual” reflect this root meaning. For example, the first meaning is “falling, happening or coming to pass without volition, without being foreseen or expected.” The second meaning is “occasional...coming at certain times without regularity.” The third meaning is “taking place or beginning to exist without method or design.” The fourth meaning is “careless;” the fifth, “nonchalant, indifferent.

God warns us to “keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God; for to draw nigh to hear is better than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they know not that they do evil” (Ecclesiastes 5:1). Being casual certainly does not fit well when we apply God’s wisdom to our lives. We come to the house of God with a foreseen or expected design “to hear.” We are in the presence of God to honor Him by listening or hearing what He would have us do, and worship Him. We do not want to play the fool by thinking we can offer God a sacrifice and not heed His will in all facets of our lives.

Christians coming to the house of God today is by design.

On the Lord’s day, we do not nonchalantly partake of the Lord’s supper, but, with a purposeful mind, discern the Lord’s body (I Corinthians 11:23-26). Our giving on the first day of the week does not happen without volition, but we expect to give as we have been prospered, coupled with a cheerful heart as well. (I Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:7). We pray to God with the design of only doing so according to God’s will (1 John 5:14-15). We sing with the foreseen design of praising God in spiritual songs, and from the hymns, teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16). Being “casual” or something taking place “by chance,” or “without design” certainly does not describe Christians in their assembling (cf. Hebrews 10:24-25).

Sadly, “casual” does describe some Christians today in their service unto God. Some make vows to be faithful to their mates in marriage and be parted only by death, but then turn around and divorce and not follow through with their vow. Did they not understand they should not be casual in making promises? “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven and

thou upon the earth: therefore let thy words be few (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Some who wear the name of Christian are “casual worshippers.” They attend without regularity. They are careless in planning their activities on the Lord’s day. They are nonchalant in their service. Would you say the casual worshipper is diligently serving the Lord with laser-like focus energized with channeled zeal as demanded by our Lord (Romans 12:11)?

Some want Bible classes to be spontaneous, with little design other than to get everybody talking. Having people discuss what is on their mind for that day and cherishing each person’s viewpoint is more desirable to some than entering a class with a definite subject in mind, and not leaving until we have nailed down what the word of the Lord definitely teaches on that particular subject. In short, some want “casual” Bible classes. God wants us to understand what the will of the Lord is, not cherish man’s opinions (Ephesians 5:17).

Our outward dress should reflect a godly heart (I Timothy 2:9-10). Does what you wear to worship services reflect a heart that is casual toward God?