



## THE EMPTY PEW

Pardon my empty pew, but....

There are things I want to do today rather than have communion with Jesus who said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

There are people I prefer to be with than experience His presence as He promised. "Where two or three are gathered in My name there am I in the midst of them."

There are other gatherings more important to me that prompt me to disobey the command, "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some do."

There are other events that just seem more important than the events that will take place there today. I do not figure I am going to miss much.

I just do not think that my being there is more important than the sleep that I missed due to the important engagement that I had last night which kept me out so late.

I just feel the enjoyment of the sports event that I am attending today has much more eternal consequences than listening to the Word, communing with the Lord, and edifying the other Saints.

I think my family reunion is much more important. A person ought to love mother and

father, brother and sisters, a mate and one's children, and one's own well being more than being a fanatic about being His disciple. **Luke 14:26**

I cannot see that missing the assembly is going to make people question my commitment, ruin my influence, cause someone else to stumble, or why it should discourage other believers. Am I my brother's keeper?

There is only so much time in a week. I have places to go, people to see, things to do, events to attend, and a living to make. I think that I should seek them first before I seek the Kingdom of God or His righteousness.

I think it's nice that you took hours preparing a Sunday School lesson or a sermon or worked on a special number, but I just do not have time to be there and listen to it.

I was there this morning. After all, Jesus did not demand us to be there twice on the Lord's Day. I fulfilled my obligation, so the rest of the Lord's Day is mine to do with what I want.

I feel closer to God in my bass boat on a nice calm lake, walking in a beautiful woods hunting, or relaxing out on the golf course than sitting in church. I think that worship is all about me and my feelings about God.

So when you see my pew empty, do not think I am unfaithful, just realize that I have a different set of priorities than perhaps you do.

I am glad that you are there to keep the doors open though, so that when I do not have somewhere else to go, someone else to see, or something else to do, I can stop by and worship the Lord with you!