

Seasonal Religion

Most stores have products that are “seasonal.” Clothing styles change every season. We have baseball season, football season, etc. Due to the changing of such seasonal things, our clothing styles change, and our interest in various sports activities changes for the “season.”

Our “Christianity,” which includes our daily conduct and involvement in church activities (such as the worship services, Bible classes, participation in Gospel Meetings, lectureships, singings, fellowship meals, and other activities) that involve the local congregation of which we are members, should not be seasonal, spasmodic, occasional, nor haphazard, but should be consistent, faithful, and filled with zeal. Jesus taught, “...*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me*” (Luke 9:23). He said discipleship is a “daily” matter. That’s sounds like it involves consistency, regularity, and dependability. Jesus further taught, “...*be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*” (Rev. 2:10). Does it sound like “faithful unto death” means “occasional” or “whenever I feel like it” when it comes to worship and service in the kingdom of God? Certainly not.

Christianity or Christian living, service, and worship is not “seasonal.” It involves faithfulness. “*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful*” (1 Cor. 4:2). Each Christian is a steward of his own soul and his Christian influence. Are you faithful as the steward of your own soul and of your Christian influence on others?

Are we guilty of being haphazard and nonchalant about our religion? Do we have a “take it or leave it” attitude about it? Are we “fair weather” Christians only? Does the rain scare us away from the worship service? Do we really get serious about our Christian faith when we face a family or personal problem, but grow cold or lax when things are going smooth? When we are away (out of town) on any given Sunday, do we “make up” our contribution to give to our home congregation? Do we plan ahead and leave it with someone to put in the collection so that the home congregation will not suffer financially due to our absence? Do we allow our favorite TV programs or sports activities to dictate our participation, or lack thereof, in spiritual things?

Christianity is a practice, not a mere profession that we believe something. It is not an emotional feeling, but a practical demonstration of our faith. Saving faith is a working, obedient faith (James 2:14). Jesus taught that obedience to His will brings eternal rewards (Mat. 7:21-23). “Pure religion” means that we remain undefiled by the world (James 1:27). Acceptable love is a laboring love in the kingdom of God (1 John 5:3; 1 Thess. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:58).

Christianity is a practice that demands fervor or zeal (diligent action) on the part of every member (male and female) of every age (Matt. 25:26; Rom. 12:11; Rev. 3:15).

If Jesus were to return today would he find you faithfully and consistently serving and worshipping Him? Or, would He find you gambling with your soul by practicing a haphazard, spasmodic, inconsistent religion? We must serve God in **all seasons!** (Acts 20:17-21). SPW