

## THE BIBLE VIEW

***In This Issue:***

[\*No Church Is Perfect!\*](#)

[\*Home for Outcasts\*](#)

[\*Reasons for Going\*](#)

[\*It's You!\*](#)

[\*Spiritually Dead, but Didn't Know It\*](#)

[\*Other\*](#)

Volume: 578 November 10, 2016

### No Church Is Perfect!

*Bill Brinkworth*

Every church has its good and bad members. The church that John was writing to in III John had several of both categories I am sure. However, the apostle wrote of three members in particular in his letter.

Two of the members were good representations of what a Christian should be. Gaius was the “well-beloved” (III John vs. 1). He was most likely a friendly sort that many loved. Many reports from the church told John how Gaius was a blessing in the church family (vs. 3, 6), and how he attended to the needs of other Christians (vs. 5). It was evident by his care and concern for the brethren that he truly loved the members of his church.

Another blessing in the church was Demetrius. He also had good things said about him (vs. 12). These two were an encouragement to the apostle’s heart. It is always good and encouraging to hear how people get saved, get their hearts and lives changed by the Holy Spirit’s work, and go on to do much for the cause of Christ and people of God.

People like those two encourage others by their proof of love for the family of God. They are sometimes part of the reason many stay faithful in church. They make others feel welcomed and make it a friendly atmosphere. However, even if we are saved we still have sinful flesh to contend with, and there will often be “stinkers” in every church. In this church of Ill John, there was one in particular like that. His name was Diotrophes.

Diotrophes had a terrible testimony in the eyes of others. This man, instead of showing the spirit of meekness the other two good members showed, exhibited improper Christian behavior. He was known for always wanting recognition (vs. 9). I can just imagine he was one of those that always had something to say. He was the one that got much of the attention and the glory. He even refused to accept John the Apostle, and any missionaries John sent to the church (vs. 10). This discontented man did all he could to talk poorly of John and his work. Diotrophes even had people kicked out of the church, that showed charity to anyone John sent to the church.

This type of man ruins the testimony of any church. When a man tries to get the glory, which Diotrophes was trying to receive, the Holy Spirit is grieved; and the work for Christ in a ministry can come to a screeching halt. That is one reason many of our once thriving churches are now spiritually dead and doing little for the cause of Christ. Men like this man, unfortunately, often become an excuse for many to leave a church.

In every ministry there are the two types of attenders and members. The good workers are the light in this dark world. They make the church work as a Christian family. The evil (vs. 11) should be ignored and not be the reason anyone leaves a church. If one does leave because of a “Diotrophes”, one can be assured that the Holy Spirit is not involved in the decision. If you have one or more of “Diotrophes” in your church, do not leave. Get your eyes and ears off of them, and keep them on the Saviour. He will never let you down, and He is the reason you should be attending anyway!

**“If you are seeing the obstacles, your eyes are off the Saviour.”**

## Home for Outcasts

*C. H. Spurgeon*

One, talking of her sin and of her repentance, stated, “Yet, sir, I am an outcast.”

That word pierced my heart like a dagger. I said to her, “Yes you may have been, but the church of Christ was made on purpose to be a home for outcasts. It is a new household for you, new brothers and sisters for you, and will open a new future for you. For now, you are one of the solitary ones whom the Lord in His infinite wisdom will set in His family.”

**“If we ever found a perfect church, we would have to leave because we would make it imperfect!”**

## Reasons for Going

*Bill Brinkworth*

There are two categories of reasons for people's attending church: spiritual and unspiritual. Here are some reasons for attendance that fall under those divisions:

### **Spiritual:**

- "The Word of God is taught, believed, and practiced there."
- "I grow spiritually at that church."
- "The Holy Spirit convicts my heart through the preaching."
- "It is where unsaved people can come and get saved!"
- "The church is a place where I can serve God."
- "The music glorifies and honors God."
- "There are good spiritual influences there."
- "It is a good place for my family to learn more about spiritual things."
- "It is where God wants me."

### **Unspiritual:**

- "I feel good when I listen to the preaching, and don't feel guilty about anything."
- "It's a place to learn about God, but they're not fanatical about it."
- "It is a very modern church. They use the newest bibles, music, and popular books."
- "It's a good place to get clients for my business."
- "Going there will make me look like a Christian, and people will trust me more in my business."

- “Going there eases my conscience, and I feel like I am doing something spiritual.”
- “I can give money to them and count it as a tax write-off.”
- “It’s not a strict church. I can do anything I want, and no one says anything.”
- “It is the most popular church in the area.”
- “The services are always entertaining.”
- “It’s a good place to meet girls.”
- “The music is almost the same as I listen to at home; just a few of the words are different.”

Are your reasons for attending church “spiritual” or “unspiritual”?

**“When the prayer house becomes a playhouse, and when we become more interested in recreation than in re-creation; then the church becomes a house of merchandise.”**

— Vance Havner

## It’s You!

*Author Unknown*

*Sez I to myself, as I grumbled and growled,  
 “I’m sick of my church,” and then how I scowled.  
 “The members are unfriendly, the sermons too long;  
 In fact, it seems that everything’s wrong.  
 I don’t like the singing; the church — a disgrace,  
 For signs of neglect are all over the place.  
 I’ll quit going there, and won’t give my dime:  
 I can make better use of my money and time.”  
 Then my conscience sez to me, sez he,*

*“The trouble with you is, you’re blind to see  
That your church reflects you, whatever it be.  
Now come, pray, and serve cheerfully;  
Stop all your faultfinding and boost it up strong;  
You’ll find you’ll be happy and proud to belong.  
Be friendly, be willing, and sing as you work,  
For churches are not built by members who shirk.”*

**“The Church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.”** — *Beecher*

## **Spiritually Dead, but Didn’t Know It!**

*Edited from an article by W. B. Knight*

An annual church report was once given to its members.  
It read:

*Additions to church during the year by profession of faith:*

*0*

*Additions by restoration: 0*

*Additions by transfer of letter: 0*

*Losses by withdrawal of fellowship: 0*

*Losses by death: 0*

The report was closed with: “Brethren, we are holding our own! Pray for us!”