

# “PART-TIME” CHRISTIANITY

By Keith Greer

We live in a fast paced world. There never seems to be enough time for everything. Work, mates, children, recreation, hobbies, and of course the Lord's work. Often the question is asked, "**Where did the time go?**" Something must give, we must make some concessions. Where do we begin?

Sadly, I must admit many of God's children make the cuts in their service to the Lord. So what we have left over, we give to the Lord. **Leftovers** in time, money and effort are offered to Him. Does He accept them?

Let me give you some reasons why I have reached these conclusions.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS.** How long are gospel meetings today? Most common in our time is the "week-end" meeting. When I was a kid, I remember them being ten days long, and two services each day. Yes, people attended and did not complain! Why the change? "People just won't attend meetings anymore; too many other things need their time." The truth is, we have created this kind of thinking. What is more important in our lives than the saving gospel of Christ? Do people need to hear the gospel less today than in bygone days? Think about it! Unfortunately, many congregations have "caved-in" to allowing the demands of the people to come before dedication and edification of God's children to enrich the spiritual knowledge of the members.

**BIBLE CLASSES.** How many churches have problems with getting members to attend Bible classes on Sunday morning and mid-week on Wednesdays? God's word clearly teaches the need for study. 2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 3:3-5; 5:17; 1 Peter 3: 15. How can we teach others, if we do not have enough knowledge to do so? Is the attendance the same for Worship service on Sunday and Bible class? If not, why not? Just try to arrange "extra" classes on other days. Do all that need such classes attend them? Clearly in the Old Testament the prophets recited the fall of God's people was a direct result of "lack of knowledge," Hosea 4:6.

**ATTENDANCE.** How much does the attendance where you worship change on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening? Most places, if you get 50% at night you're considered doing well! Oh yes, one of those members will say, "Show me a passage where it says I have to come on Sunday night and Wednesday evening?" Show me the passage where you can "willfully" miss? If a person truly loves God, loves the brethren, and seeks to gain knowledge to be more effective in the Lord's work, where will he be on Sunday evening and Wednesday night? How can I be encouraged by you, while you're at home? How can you tell the Lord you love the church? Be honest! Hebrews 10:24,25; 2 Peter 3:18; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:15.

**EXAMPLES.** What kind of influence are Christians having on the world today? When Christians are trying to justify drinking, gambling, dancing, immodest apparel, and bad language,. how can they be considered "Christ like"? The Bible plainly tells us we must be "different" from our counterparts in the world. Romans 12:1,2; 1 John 2:15-17 ; Matthew 5:13-16; When we act like the world,

talk like the world, and do those things of the world, can we be leading people to Christ? Who can believe it!

**What does all of this mean?** The church is suffering because of "**Part-Time**" Christianity! God never wanted nor needs "part-time" workers in the church! Please read Mark 14:8. Truth of the matter is many treat Christianity as a "hobby" – something they do when they have time left over in their schedules. Did you ever receive "full-time" wages for working "part-time" hours? All God wants us to do is that which we are able to do. Are you a "part-time" Christian? If so, do you expect the Lord to reward you with heaven for working for Him "**part-time**" on earth? \*\*\*