

The Hard Truth

Week 5: The Body Needs Heart

(from the message dated July 26, 2015)

The Study

"Where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21 NIV

Barna researchers have found that while 70% of Americans identify as Christians, only 20% of that number actually make it to church on a typical week. 51% of that same group doesn't think church attendance is "all that important."

What *do* we think is important? Well, if the Matthew passage above speaks truth to our human nature then we think our possessions are more important than the value of the Body of Christ – we Americans spend three times the amount we give on average to the church on insurance for our material goods; twice what we give to the church to stay healthy; ten times for our homes than we do for the ministry of the Body of Christ! In other words, *we value the time we have on earth much more than we do preparing for the eternity that awaits us all!*

Let's see if we can find reason to invest in the church. Christ's Body.

The church is a training center for God's people. **1 Timothy 4:8** addresses this topic. How does physical training compare to training for godliness?

How do reach, or achieve godliness? Read **2 Peter 1:5-7**.

Where do we start learning about our faith and purpose for living?

Psalm 1:1-3

July 29, 2015

The Hard Truth

In **Hebrews 10:19-25** the writer was placing a high value on spiritual lives by the grace of what God has done for us.

What are the benefits in the Hebrew passage above do we have in a relationship with God?

How are these things important to church attendance?

Look at the words the apostle shares with Timothy (**2 Timothy 2:15**) regarding effort. What is our goal in studying scripture and serving the Lord?

What value is there in being in church for you, personally?

List some things that your church is doing that is valuable to the Kingdom of God.