

LONELY, BUT NOT ALONE
ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. The fear of being alone is a common problem. More people feel alone than ever before.
2. God never intended on mankind being alone, but has provided for all of our needs. (Gen. 2.15-20)
3. What are the causes and solutions to loneliness? (Ecc. 4.8-12)

I. SELFISHNESS

- A. Loneliness can be caused by living for yourself.
 1. **ECCLESIASTES 4.8:** *“There is one alone...”*
 2. **ECCLESIASTES 4.8:** *“For whom do I toil...”*
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 4.9:** *“two are better than one”*
 1. Life is about others. (Eph. 4.28; Ja.1.27)
 2. Always remember to share. (1 Tim. 6.17-19)

II. SUFFERING

- A. Loneliness can be caused by the hardships of life.
 1. **ECCLESIASTES 4.10:** *“But woe to him who is alone...”*
 2. Suffering is common to all humanity. (Job 14.1)
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 4.10:** *“For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.”* Two thoughts to keep in mind.
 1. God is there for you. (Heb. 13.6)
 2. Brethren are there for you. (Num. 11.14-17; 2 Cor. 7.6)
 3. This emphasizes the importance of worship. (Heb. 10.24)

III. SICKNESS

- A. Loneliness can be caused by physical or mental sickness.
 1. **ECCLESIASTES 4.11:** *“How can one be warm alone.”*
 2. The idea is sickness. (1 Kings 1.1-4; cf. 1 Thess. 5.14)
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 4.11:** *“If two lie down together, they will keep warm.”* Two thoughts to keep in mind.
 1. Jesus understands. (Matt. 4.23,24)
 2. Brethren understand. (1 Pet. 5.9)

IV. ASSAULT

- A. Loneliness can be caused by the enmity of others.
 1. **ECCLESIASTES 4.12:** *“Though one may be overpowered”*
 2. Many felt alone because of enmity. (Gen. 19.4; Jer. 15.17)
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 4.12:** *“two can withstand him.”*
 1. Jesus understand. (Luke 20.20; Matt. 13.57; 26.40)
 2. Brethren understand. (1 Kings 19.10,18).

CONCLUSION: You always have those who are with you!

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 25, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHY COME TO CHURCH?

Getting the lost to come and hear the gospel has always been a challenge. Some congregations have resorted to unconventional and even unscriptural ways to attract the world. They offer recreational activities, promise gifts such as food and even money to the first 10 visitors. But what really moves people to leave their homes on a Sunday morning and visit the Lord's church?

According to a variety of studies we learn why the lost have come to the Lord's church and eventually became faithful members. The study indicates that only 2% come through advertising such as putting an ad in the newspaper or radio. Only 6% come because of the direct contact of the local preacher. Only 6% come because of the various evangelistic efforts done by the church such as knocking on doors, mailing bulletins, and social media outreach. But 86% of all people who had come to the church and eventually obeyed the gospel did so because they were invited by a friend or relative.

God told Jeremiah to tell the children of Israel, *“Will you not receive instruction to obey My words”* (Jer. 35.13)? In spite of the statistics, most of us fail to apply what we know and give the lost instructions to obey God's word. In fact, a recent Gallup poll revealed that 63% of those who do not attend any church service say that it is because they have never been invited. CLP

MOVED TO SERVE GOD

ISAIAH 6:8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read Isaiah 6.1-8: In this passage, there are four questions that are answered: What did Isaiah see, hear, feel, and say?
2. Are you compelled to serve God, or is it an obligation? Do you only do what you must do or do you volunteer?

I. THE MAJESTY OF GOD

A. ISAIAH 6.1: *"I saw the Lord"*

1. He saw the throne of God. (Ps. 47.8; 89.14; Heb. 4.16; 8.1)
2. He saw the exaltation of God. (Ps. 7.17; 113.4,5; Isa. 57.15)
3. He saw the glory of God. (1 Kings 8.10,11)

B. Are you impressed with the majesty of God? (Ps. 8.3,4)

II. THE HOLINESS OF GOD

A. ISAIAH 6.2: *"Above it stood the seraphim"*

1. The description of the seraphim. (Isa. 6.2)
2. ISAIAH 6.3: *"And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts'"* (cf. Rev. 4.8)

B. Are you impressed with the holiness of God? (Rom. 12.2)

III. THE INADEQUACY OF MAN

A. Seeing the majesty and holiness of God, how did it make Isaiah feel?

1. ISAIAH 6.4,5: *"Woe is me, for I am undone."* He felt lost and separated from God. (cf. 1 Pet. 1.22; Eph. 1.7)
2. ISAIAH 6.5: *"I am a man."* A created being in the presence of the Creator. (cf. Isa. 64.8)
3. ISAIAH 6.5: *"I am a man of unclean lips."* He felt unclean, defiled by sin. (cf. Eph. 5.5)

B. Are you humbled by the presence of God? (1 Tim. 6.16)

IV. THE DESIRE TO SERVE

A. Being forgiven compelled Isaiah to volunteer.

1. ISAIAH 6.6: *"in his hands a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar."* (cf. Rom. 5.9)
2. ISAIAH 6.7: *"Your iniquity is taken away, and your sins purged."* He was forgiven.
3. ISAIAH 6.8: *"Here am I! Send me."*

B. Are you moved to serve God have being forgiven? (Eph. 2.10)

CONCLUSION: You are in one of two categories: Saved or lost.

RULING YOUR HOUSE WELL

The qualifications of elders and deacons are not arbitrary but affect the overall success or failure of the church. Therefore it is critical that the church have men who meet the qualifications. Not one requisite can be overlooked.

The church as a family is a constant theme within the New Testament. The relationship between Christ and the church is likened unto that between a husband and a wife (Eph. 5.22-33). The discipline of the Hebrew Christians was compared to that of a father and his children (Heb. 12.7-11). When Jesus looked out to His mother and brothers who were calling for Him, He "stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.'" (Matt. 12.49,50). It should be little wonder, therefore, that one of the prerequisites of both elders and deacons is to be able to rule his own house well (1 Tim. 3.4,5,12).

The word "rule" does not carry the meaning as is often applied. To rule is not to command, dictate, and control. There are other words which convey this meaning. However, in 1 Timothy 3, the word is from the Greek origin PROISTEMI and is defined as "to stand before" [VINE]. The idea is one of leadership as a leader stands before those he leads. He does not merely point the way, but he goes in front of his family that they may follow in his footsteps. Furthermore, Vine explains that the word implies "care and diligence."

What kind of elders and deacons are qualified to serve the church? A good elder or deacon serves the church the same way he serves his family. He is one who sets the right example. His care and concern for the family encourages trust giving the family good reason to follow. He does not rule with an iron fist (1 Pet. 5.3), but with wisdom putting forth great effort to ensure the welfare and safety of his family. If a man does not lead his family by example, instill trust, and encourage them to follow keeping them spiritually well, "how will he take care of the church of God" (1 Tim. 3.5)?

Those who desire to serve as an elder or deacon do not do so out of compulsion (1 Pet. 5.2). It is a great privilege as well as great responsibility. CLP