

Pk's Perspectives ... Sunday Worship

Many of you reading this newsletter will make a decision to attend church services come Sunday, and some of you will choose to invest your time in something other than gathering with the Body of Christ. This week, I want to mostly address those folks that will be gathering up with other Christians on Sunday morning for a time of fellowship, Bible study, worship, and prayer. These thoughts are for you, brave church attender, even if you go to a gathering of believers other than First Baptist Church in Cochran!

If you happen to be like most other humans who choose to make gathering with the Body of Christ a part of their Sunday itinerary, the majority of your preparations for attending church services will be focused on issues such as which service to attend, Sunday School (yes?/no?), setting the alarm to allow for on-time arrival, what to wear, game planning for lunch following the service, and making sure everyone understands that the first person to arrive in the sanctuary is the designated seat saver for the rest of the family. There may also be secondary considerations related to driving separate automobiles, bringing the baby shower gift because you forgot about the actual baby shower the day before, or whether a change of clothing is needed for the after church plans.

There are probably some Sundays when, after finally arriving at your place of worship, the thing you need most is 10 minutes of solitude to recalibrate, to catch your breath, and to focus your heart on the “Why” of gathering as a church. Maybe every church needs to consider installing “Recalibration Chambers” in the lobby so that arriving members can zero in on the beauty and majesty and power of Christians gathering to worship!

Allow me to put forward some suggestions that might ease the stress of getting ready to attend Sunday church service.

- Start “getting ready” for Sunday church services on Monday! Practice the spiritual discipline of a daily quiet time w/God.
- All through your week, invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend church with you; offer to pick them up or designate a place to meet on the church grounds. Getting ready for church feels totally different when there is the excitement of sharing the experience with someone who doesn’t know Jesus and/or doesn’t grasp the power of a community of Christians.
- During the week, pray specifically for people who will be leading the various facets of your church’s Sunday ministries:
 - Pray specifically for your Sunday School teacher, and also for all the other SS teachers. Ask God to use these men and women in powerful ways to deliver the life changing truths of Scripture. *(Sunday School is where the deeper relationships among Christians are nurtured. If you don’t already attend, pray about checking out a SS class this week!)*
 - Pray specifically for the people who will be leading congregational worship through music. Pray for the folks at the microphone but also pray for the other vocalists, the instrumentalists, the sound booth engineers, and pray that all gathered will experience a freedom to worship in spirit and truth.
 - Pray for the people leading the Children’s Church Ministry, ministering to our babies in the nursery, and greeting us with piping hot coffee!!
 - When you drive by your church building during the week, ask God to bring about an awesomely amazing, life transforming moment of worship on the coming Sunday! Ask God to bring Christians into a deeper commitment and unbelievers into salvation.
- Before shutting it down on Saturday night, take a few minutes to organize for the Sunday morning “get ready” ritual. Lay out kids clothes, decide on a breakfast menu, iron that wrinkly thing, go ahead and put the baby shower gift in the car...the more you do Saturday night, the less hectic is your Sunday morning!
- Start your Sunday worship...at home! Before anything else, while the house is relatively quiet, fall on your knees before God and ask Him to dress your heart for worship.

Cya in Sunday School & Worship, PK.