

GRANT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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AN INEVITABLE APPOINTMENT!

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No more sobering words are found in all of scripture than those recorded in Hebrews 9:27! **"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..."**

Here on earth we miss appointments for a variety of reasons. We oversleep. There is something else we would rather do. We may even forget the appointment all together! But the appointments with death and judgment will be kept by all!

*"And I saw the dead, **small and great**, standing before God ... **The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works**" (Revelation 20:12-14).*

*"**All the nations will be gathered before Him**" (Matt. 25:31-32).*

No one will sleep late and miss the judgment: *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will **by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself, will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first**" (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).*

No one will miss the judgment because their attention is elsewhere: *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him**" (Revelation 1:7).*

No one will miss the judgment because they "just didn't feel like coming":

*"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world...**" (Acts 17:30-31).*

No one will miss the judgment because of devotion to any material thing:

The television, the cars, the house, the golf course and all the other things that are used as excuses for missing appointments here on earth will be gone! *"...The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up... all these things will be dissolved... the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat..." (2 Peter 3:10-13).*

The sobering fact is: No one will miss the judgment! we'll all be there!

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11-12).

"Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:14).

"Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober" (1Thess. 5:6).

WE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD APATHY IN THE CHURCH!

Apathy: *Lack of interest or concern, indifference; lack of emotion,*

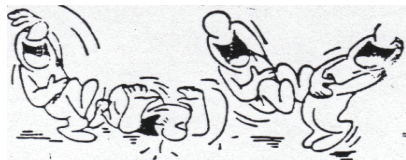
One of the catalysts that have driven the move to change our worship services from the N.T. pattern to a more entertainment based model is apathy. We are constantly challenged to keep people motivated!

Some say that week after week of the same songs, the same order of worship and the same basic message of salvation through Jesus results in boredom and apathy. But then others will tell us that those very things are what keeps them excited about serving God and gives them the spiritual boost they need to get through another week on earth. Two different views of the same actions suggest that it is not the actions that need changing, but the hearts of the apathetic and the bored!

Granted, it is okay and even encouraging to change things around now and then. There is no law that says we have to sing the same number of songs and have the prayers in the exact same place in worship every week. There is no stipulation on where in the course of the service we choose to partake of the Lord's Supper. But these changes alone won't cure apathy. **A more exciting and emotional delivery of the message does help, but even that is not the cure.** People come to worship God because they want to. If they come for any other reason, in time, complacency and apathy are inevitable!

No one can "fix" or cure our apathy except us! Others can encourage us, they can make worship as exciting and convenient and comfortable as possible! But the fact remains that in the end people make time for, put energy into and ultimately do exactly what they want to do.

So our problem is not a pattern problem it is a heart problem. The person with the complacent heart must decide to *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded"* (James 4:8).



"tell us again why you don't attend the services of the church!"