

“A Better Congregation Begins With Me”

By: Michael R. Hughes

Text: Galatians 2:20

Theme: To encourage better service in our local congregations

Introduction:

1. Some years ago Becky Burris wrote a tract entitled A Better World Begins With Me.
 - a. In excess of 13 million copies have been distributed.
 - b. Everyone is concerned with the condition of the world and Becky Burris correctly observed that each individual can make it better.
 - c. We should like to employ this idea and relate it to the strengthening of the local congregation.
2. A Better Congregation Begins With Me.
 - a. Everyone of us should have a genuine interest in the well being of our congregation.
 - b. Each individual can make it better.
3. Come alive by letting Christ live in me.

Discussion:

- I. A better congregation begins with me when I love more.
 - A. When I love the Godhead more - The Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
 1. I must love God more. - Matthew 22:37,38
 2. I must love Christ more - John 14:23
 3. This creates a better attitude about serving God in the congregation.
 - a. Compare husband/wife loving each other.
 - b. Love causes certain actions to take place.
 - B. When I love truth more
 1. I must love to receive the truth - II Thessalonians 2:10 -
 - a. This will help me to be more interested in Bible classes
 - b. [If they are boring I will help to make them better]
 2. I should have the desire to speak the truth in love.
 - a. Ephesians 4:15
 - b. This will help me become more interested in teaching others.
 - C. When I love my fellow man more
 1. Non-brethren - Luke 10:36,37
 2. Brethren - II Thessalonians 1:3
 3. Though brethren should occupy a special place in the heart (Gal.6:10) - love s should encompass all Matthew 22:39,40
 - D. When I love the church more-
 1. Enough to put it first - Matthew 6:33
 2. Just like Jesus - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28

- II. A better congregation begins with me when I give more.
 - A. More is said in the Bible about giving than faith, repentance, confession, and baptism combined.
 - B. Giving can be done in many ways
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Talent
 - 3. Money
 - C. Pertinent scriptures
 - 1. Acts 20:35
 - 2. Acts 11:27-30
 - 3. II Corinthians 9:6,7
 - 4. II Corinthians 8:5
- III. A better congregation begins with me when I worship more -
 - A. Notice the attitude of David - Psalm 122:1 Many today say, "I was mad when they said..."
 - B. More important than gaining the world. - Matthew 4:10
 - C. Notice the attitudes of the early disciples - Acts 2:42
 - D. Hebrews 10:25
 - E. A new Christian once said that one of the sweetest promises of heaven was the anticipation of worship everyday.
- IV. A better congregation begins with me when I work more.
 - A. Pertinent Scriptures
 - 1. Titus 2:14; 3:14
 - 2. John 15:8
 - 3. I Corinthians 15:58
 - 4. [III. Bro. Tolentino - ready to help teach Filipino man who did not speak English (or illustrate with some other act of willing service by some member)

Conclusion:

- 1. What will the congregation grow to be if everyone it depends upon is like myself?
- 2. What would be the condition of the Bible school program of this church if everybody supported it like I do?
- 3. What would be the growth potential of this congregation if everyone supported its works for growth as I support them?
- 4. Would the church meet it's financial budget if everyone gave as I give?
- 5. Would a stranger think this congregation dead or alive for Christ if every member participated in it's worship services as enthusiastically as I?
- 6. A BETTER CONGREGATION BEGINS WITH ME!

Invitation:

Bibliography

Adapted from a bulletin outline by Robert R. Taylor, Jr. with the same title