

St. David's Presbyterian Church

June 22, 2008

St. John's, NL

Presentation Sunday

"Why should I go to church? Eternal Destinations and Sunday School Teaching"

Dr. J. Dent

(1) If there were a God who created the stars, the planets, the sun, the earth and you and I, and if that God were to have something to say to you and to me, do you think it would be important to listen?

Because no matter how well we speak or how loudly we speak, it's still possible to not listen, right?

(2) And if there were a place to go which was set aside once a week to meet with others who wanted to listen together to the voice of the One who created life and the universe, would it be important to meet there?

(3) And if there were a mission to carry out, more important than any military or spy mission, more exciting than any martial arts movie could portray, or any video game imagine, would you want to go on that mission? And if training for that mission happened once a week in a certain place, would you want to be there?

(4) And if your best friend told you that he had something to tell you and a few other friends, and that it was really just for you and very important, would you want to be there?

(5) And if someone could tell what life is all about, and why you are here and what you are supposed to be doing with your life, would you want to go to the place where that person was speaking?

Of course, there is a God who created the universe who speaks today to you and me. And there is a place set aside to God to listen to Him. And there is a mission where training happens at least once a week. And there a best friend waiting to talk to you, someone who knows what life is all about, and loves you very much. That too is God through Jesus Christ, His Son. And the place where we listen is called church.

So why not plan to come to church every Sunday, and not miss what He has to say?

Your attention might be short but you might also find a focus, something like this...[show laser light]. If I can grab your attention with this, God can grab your attention fairly easily.

And if there were a heaven, a place with God forever, a place of healing and justice, and if there were a hell, a place apart from God, which is the opposite of heaven, then would you listen to know how to get to heaven?

We can choose to draw near to the One who loves us and knows us, and experience a little taste of heaven, or we can choose to neglect the One who loves us and knows, and experience in our rebellion a little taste of hell.

And we can know the difference if we come to church to listen.

So what could be more important than coming to church to worship? Nothing except maybe helping a child understand the truths about Jesus Christ and God, through Sunday School teaching. You give up your worship experience, but you give out a taste of relationship with the Creator, the Author of Life.

And this Fall, when we unveil a second service on Saturday nights, you might not have to miss your worship service, you could go on Saturday night and teach on Sunday morning. And I know many of you have put several years into the Sunday School, and you figure you've already done your part. But I simply ask all of you to consider giving a few Sundays a year to sharing your faith with the youngest ones in our congregation. It is a great privilege.

Let us pray.

[happily abbreviated due to the presentation of certificates to children and explanations of what our Sunday Schools classes were doing this year]