

# Preacher's Pen points

## Encouraging Others To Improve Their Attendance



Some of our members are here “every time the door is open”; others attend less consistently. Surely, all of us would like to see our attendance be more consistent from service to service. In this article I want to address some things that we all might do to encourage better attendance.

**Acknowledge that people who come obviously have some interest in pleasing God and going to heaven.** Show appreciation for the effort being made rather than giving rebukes for not doing more.

**Realize that some people have a much harder time making it to services than you do for various reasons.** Some have more demanding jobs; some have non-believing spouses who do not want their spouses to be away so much; some have fears of returning home after dark. It is important to understand these difficulties and try to offer alternatives that would help to overcome them.

**Help others see their obligations to the Lord and to the church.** Surely a part of what we must do is to help impress upon all members the need to grow in knowledge, the importance of participation in the work as a team, and the proper attitude toward the assembly as a means to provide spiritual encouragement to the church.

**Provide evidence to produce a stronger faith that would lead to a greater commitment.** Sometimes our approach to those not attending is to think that we can shame or threaten them into submission by a scolding from the pulpit or personal lectures. I assure you that won't work in most cases! Instead what the poorly attending person may need is evidence to produce a stronger faith that would motivate him to overcome personal obstacles and make a

greater commitment to God.

**Build closer relationships that make being with other brethren more meaningful.** The choice to assemble not only involves a commitment to God but also a commitment to others—to love and encourage them. When we properly enfold others, they are more likely to seek our company and try to encourage others by assembling with them. Have you made the effort to greet and talk with those who do not attend often?

**Give them something worth the investment of time and effort.** People are more likely to be involved in what is interesting and helpful to them. Do our lessons and classes provide incentive for people to come and participate? Do we produce high quality instruction and considers the needs of all who attend? Do we offer something that will help them meet the challenges of their lives?

**Talk up the good things that happen and help others see what they have missed when not present.** Thomas on one occasion missed an appearance of the Lord because he was not present with the other disciples. Tell others about something in the assembly that was especially helpful or encouraging to you.

**Tell others what it means to you to see them present.** Often by affirming the good people do, they are made to appreciate the impact that their actions have on others. Help others who don't attend regularly to see how coming would help others besides themselves.

These suggestions may not solve all problems with attendance, but they are a start. Let's give them a try! —Johnny Felker ([www.truthchasers.com](http://www.truthchasers.com))