

BEING LATE FOR CHURCH SERVICES

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Harry was in his late 50's. He retired and started a second career. However, he just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day, he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, real sharp, so the boss was in a quandary about how to deal with it.

Finally, one day he called him into the office for a talk. "Harry, I want to have a "heart to heart" talk with you. I like your work ethic, you do a great job, but you're being late so often is quite annoying."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it." "Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though, your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Air Force. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, "Good morning, General."

This may seem kind of funny. However, when one is continuously late for church services, it is a "Slap in the face to God". Anyone can have a car problem, or the baby may need changing as one is ready to depart for services. A sports fan wants to be present for the "Kickoff", the "Jump-Ball, or the "Opening Pitch". Likewise, the "Born Again Child of God" wants the thrill of standing as the opening song is announced and the familiar hymns ("Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus, "Onward Christian Soldiers", "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine", or "Glory To His Name", are sung.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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