

## Five simple things you can do to guarantee failure!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- **sometimes it's helpful to look at things from a negative perspective** rather than the positive
  - **illus. savings:** to make sure you are miserable in retirement, spend all your money while you're working, don't save - not have money for anything other than subsistence living – **emphasizes must save**
  - **illus. car:** if you want to make sure your car doesn't last very long, never change the oil
  - **illus. school:** if you want to fail, never study and never do your homework
- **title:** Five simple things you can do, to guarantee your failure as a Christian!

### ➤ To fail as a Christian, **don't do your best to assemble with the saints** – a top priority of our week

- **put a higher priority on work and recreation** than on church (assembly with the saints).
  - **illus:**
    - **recreation:**
      - stay out late on Saturday, sleep in on Sunday mornings
      - recreation activities vs. assembling with saints, Bible study – pleasure vs. worship
    - **work, youth:** work on Sunday rather than worship – **not have to work**
      - **Matt. 16:26** exchange soul for \$21.00, 3 hours work
      - If Jesus comes this morning (Sunday), where do you want to be - church or work? – **call in work, tell can't come**

- **What do you miss, when you miss church (assembly with saints)?**
  - **miss out being encouraged and stimulated** to love and good deeds (obey and serve God)
    - **Heb. 10:23-25** stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking assembling
  - **miss the opportunity to proclaim Christ's death and be spiritually strengthened**

- - **1 Cor. 11:26** proclaim the Lord's death until He comes
- - **1 Cor. 11:27-30** Lord's Supper, if not partake properly become weak and sick and spiritually sleep

### ➤ - **What do you tell others, when you neglect the assembly** of the saints - **purposefully neglect**

#### - God and Jesus:

- **"I have quite on God."** – **someone who quits church has quite on God, Jesus**
- **"I am more concerned about wealth and pleasure than God."** – **serving and obeying, worshipping**
- **"I have forgotten my purification from sin."** – **Jesus, cross, baptism, first love, first commitment**
  - **2 Pet. 1:8-9** (Peter, 8 graces) lack these qualities, forgotten purification from former sins
- **"If I'm not crucifying Jesus again, I'm getting ready to."**
  - **Heb. 6:6b** again crucify to themselves the Son of God
  - **Heb. 10:29b** trampled Son of God under foot

#### ➤ - friends and family:

- **"Other things are more important than God, Jesus, church, salvation."** – **recreation, \$ and work, school**
- **"I'm not concerned about going to heaven."** – **more concerned about selfish desires**
- **"I'm not concerned enough about your soul, to set a god example and help you go to heaven."**

#### ➤ - brethren:

- **"I don't care if you're weak, struggling, suffering."** – **not considering you (Heb. 10:24-25)**
- **"I'm not concerned about my soul, your soul, or anyone's soul."**

- - yourself:
  - “I have a problem that I need to address - ASAP! – red flag
  - I’m weak! I need to seek help from my brethren and return to the Lord before it’s too late!”
  
- To fail as a Christian, don't study God's word (alone, other Christians, Bible class at church).
  - What does God want us to do?
    - 1 Tim. 2:4 God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge (*epignosis*) of the truth
    - illus.: surgeon, cheated in school and never learned his lessons, doesn't keep up with his continuing education, he will fail and people will die
      - Christians: not learn our lessons, not keep up with continuing education – you will die (spiritually, hell), people you influence will die (spiritually, hell)
  
- - What benefits do you miss when you neglect to study and learn God's word?
  - 1 Th. 2:13 miss out on God’s word performing it’s work in you
  - Col. 3:10 miss out on putting on the new man, renewed to a true knowledge (*epignosis*)
  - Eph. 3:16-20 miss out on having the power of God working with you
  
- To fail as a Christian, run yourself into the ground – chasing after fame and fortune, could make other choices
  - illus.: someone working 16 hours a day, Monday through Saturday (96 hours a week)
    - some of these people: sleep in Sunday and neglect their families, rest, justifying their actions, thinking they have to work that much to support their families
      - truth: just feeding their greed, not humbling themselves to live within their means
    - some of these people: sick or not feeling well most Sundays, but always able to go to work
      - truth: making excuses, not honest with themselves or others
    - some of these people: "pew warmers" - thinking showing up for church, too exhausted to participate, take active role, worship in spirit is good enough
      - truth: self deceived - believing can put God second, give Him leftovers (time, energy, effort)
    - few of these people: can keep up with all their responsibilities - God, family, neighbors
      - truth: they run on high octane, can do and accomplish more than the average person without neglecting any of their responsibilities
    - Ephesus and Laodicea:
      - Rev. 2:2-6 Ephesian brethren, lost first love, had to repent to go to heaven
      - Rev. 3:15-19 Laodicean brethren, lukewarm, had to repent to go to heaven
  
- - What does God require? – everything
  - Mk. 12:30 love God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength
    - God wants to be first - receive the best you have to offer of ourselves - all
    - if you don’t give God your best, you’re guaranteed to fail
    - if you run yourself into the ground (working, school, recreational activities), you are giving God your leftovers (not what He requires), guaranteed to fail

➤ **To fail as a Christian, surround yourself with evil influences.**

- **1 Cor. 15:33** bad company (evil company) corrupts good morals (good habits, NKJV)

- **evil companions influence good people to become evil — visa versa**

- **saying:** if you lie with dogs, you will get fleas

- **illus.: Sexual Music Produces More Sexual Teens** – attached

- **illus.: 18 yr. old boy murdered a 15 yr. old boy**

- **murder trial:** Sydney, AU, found guilty 12/6/2000

- Matthew O'Grady, lured 15 year-old Chris Brown into remote bushland west of Sydney after a party and shot him repeatedly

- O'Grady had come off drugs and decided killing would provide him with a high

- **O'Grady's attorney blamed his client's actions on his obsession with violent videos, particularly snuff movies, which depict real killings.** "The videos had a very significant effect, (they) desensitized him into killing humans," O'Grady's attorney argued.

➤ **To fail as a Christian, treat other people badly - look out for self, be selfish and self-centered.**

- **Matt. 22:39** the second greatest commandment, love your neighbor as yourself

➤ - **1 Pet. 3:7, 10-12** when you treat others badly, your prayers are hindered – **illus.: husbands (vs. 7)**

- **you are guaranteed to fail as Christians, unless you treating others the way you are commanded by God – family, brethren, friends, everyone we contact**

➤ **Summary / Inv.:**

- **Summary: To fail:**

- **don't do your best to assemble with the saints** (a top priority of your week).

- **don't study God's word** (alone, with other Christians).

- **run ourselves into the ground** - chasing after fame and fortune.

- **surround yourself with evil influences.**

- **treat other people badly.**

➤ - **But, to succeed: - opposite – improve, better in 2007 than years previous**

- **do your best to assemble with the saints** (a top priority of your week).

- **study God's word** (alone, with other Christians).

- **not run ourselves into the ground** - chasing after fame and fortune.

- **surround yourself with good and holy influences.**

- **treat other people with love** (like Jesus).

- **inv.**

- **be a faithful Christian – doing your best in 2007 – pleasing and acceptable to God**