



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 23, 2017

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE THROWING A DINNER PARTY FOR A GROUP OF FRIENDS. YOU'VE SPENT HOURS DECIDING WHAT YOU ARE PREPARING FOR EACH COURSE, THEN YOU SPENT TIME PURCHASING ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR EACH COURSE, PREPARING THE FOODS, GETTING YOUR HOUSE CLEANED, SETTING OUT YOUR BEST DINNERWARE AND FLATWARE, AND INVITING THE GUESTS. THE EVENING OF YOUR DINNER PARTY ARRIVES AND AT THE APPOINTED TIME ONE COUPLE ARRIVES IN TIME FOR THE APPETIZERS. ANOTHER COUPLE ARRIVES FOR THE SALAD COURSE AND ANOTHER FINALLY ARRIVES FOR THE MAIN ENTRÉE. AND AS YOU BRING OUT THE DESSERT, ANOTHER COUPLE ARRIVES, BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GUESTS WHO DON'T SHOW UP AT ALL. YOU ARE DISAPPOINTED. YOU LOVE TO COOK AND YOU LOVE TO NOURISH OTHERS WITH FINE FOODS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PASTORS ARE "THROWING DINNER PARTIES" EVERY WEEK. THEY SPEND HOURS PREPARING FOR A SUNDAY LESSON OR SERMON, SEARCHING SCRIPTURES AND COMMENTARIES, BUYING MATERIALS THAT ARE NEEDED, SETTING OUT MATERIALS OR MAKING POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS. THEY LOVE TO FEED OTHERS WITH THE BEST KIND OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT: THE WORD OF GOD. BUT ON SUNDAY MORNING, AT THE APPOINTED TIME, SOME ARE THERE FOR THE APPETIZER, SOME WANDER IN FOR THE SALAD COURSE, MANY GET THERE FOR THE ENTRÉE OR THE DESSERT, BUT MANY DON'T COME AT ALL.

IN THE 2009 BOOK *ALREADY GONE* BY KEN HAM AND BRITT BEEMER A SCIENTIFIC STUDY WAS DONE ABOUT WHY PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH. ONE OF THE REASONS FROM SOME WAS THEY DOUBTED THE SCRIPTURES AS TRUTH. "THOSE WHO NO LONGER BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND STORIES IN THE BIBLE ARE TRUE: 39.8% FIRST HAD DOUBTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 43.7% FIRST HAD THEIR DOUBTS IN HIGH SCHOOL, 10.6% HAD THEIR FIRST DOUBTS DURING COLLEGE." FROM THIS STUDY WE CAN SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING CHILDREN IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH SO THEY HEAR GOD'S WORD AS TRUTH. IF NOT, IF CHURCH IS A HIT OR MISS EVENT, YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT THEY'LL GET THEIR INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT AS PARENTS WE LOOK AT OUR CHILDREN'S CHURCH HABITS: ARE WE BRINGING THEM TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH AND AWANA WEEKLY? ARE WE MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO DO SO? DO WE DISCUSS THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND AWANA LESSONS, AND FOR OLDER STUDENTS, DO WE DISCUSS THE SERMON WITH THEM? DO WE TAKE OUR ROLES AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS SERIOUSLY? THOSE STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 CANNOT DRIVE TO CHURCH ON THEIR OWN, SO IT IS UP TO PARENTS TO GET THEM THERE.

YOU ARE CHALLENGED. YOU ARE CHALLENGED TO MAKE SUNDAY SCHOOL, AWANA, AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE A COMMITMENT IN YOUR LIFE, IF NOT FOR YOUR SAKE (AND IT SHOULD BE), BUT FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR CHILDREN. THE WORLD USUALLY SHOUTS OUT ITS MESSAGES A LOT LOUDER THAN THE CHURCH. CHILDREN NEED TO BE IMMERSSED IN GOD'S WORD AT HOME AND CHURCH, OTHERWISE THE WORD IS SHOUTED DOWN. YOU ARE CHALLENGED TO IMMERSE YOUR CHILDREN IN HIS WORD AT HOME AND CHURCH. WILL YOU TAKE THIS CHALLENGE?

HEBREWS 10:25 "LET US NOT GIVE UP MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING, BUT LET US ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER—AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING." (NIV)

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE