

“Oh,” you say, “I haven’t dropped out, I’ve just been busy.” But such a simple busy life can so impede one’s spiritual progress that before long he drops out. Or it may well be that one who makes that excuse has already dropped out and just doesn’t realize it. Every person decides his own course of pursuit. He can drift in and out of his service to God and sooth his conscience to some extent. Besides, a man’s faithfulness is not measured by whether or not he attends on the Lord’s Day; it is measured by whether or not he is faithful the other six days of the week. Every person has the responsibility to live his life in a way that brings honor to God. Fact is, you can be at the Sunday services and still be a “drop-out.” (Read [Hebrews 2:1-3](#))

But there are many who have dropped out in a more literal way. They have done just what the term implies—they have dropped out! Oh, they still profess to be citizens in the body of Christ, and if asked, they will affirm it—albeit, in rather soft tones. But they are in no way involved in the work being carried on by the local congregation where they ostensibly are members. They don’t attend Bible classes or gospel meetings, and are not present on Sunday and Wednesday evening. They don’t give as they have been prospered. They don’t invite people to services or encourage home Bible studies. Many of them—far too many—don’t even

encourage their own children to attend Bible classes. They likely don’t know who the Deacons are and don’t even know the names of the wives of the Elders. They may not know it, but they’ve dropped out. They are no longer in fellowship with God. (Read [I John 1:7-9](#)).

There are some marks of identification for religious drop outs. Although they don’t realize it, they are all very much alike. First, they are not only adept, but virtuoso at formulating and offering excuses. They are so skilled that sometimes they will make an excuse when a reason would have well sufficed. Their excuses have a similar ring, too. First of all, there is a ring of insincerity about them. They are given to explain the facts when, in reality, they conceal the facts. They are in no way to be confused with plausible reasons; they are just a quick way out of an uncomfortable situation. Why, in the name of common sense and truthfulness, cannot one just say, “I need to do better, will you help me?” (Read [I John 4:7-8](#))

Another thing: drop outs are always ill-at-ease when the faithful brethren—especially the preacher or one of the Elders—is near by. They will discuss everything but their drop-out situation. If it comes up, you can prepare for an immediate subject change. They may even sometimes say, “I know I should,”

but no indication that a change is in the offing. They know all the stars’ names. They know all the team bating averages, all the number of tackles the number 99 made in last week’s game, how many games ahead or behind the local team is in the standings. But for the life of them, they can’t seem to find [Acts 2:38](#). Without possibly even knowing it, they’ve become a religious drop out. (Read [I Peter 3:15-16](#))

To drop out of service to God is to place your most valuable possession in jeopardy. Don’t do it! Don’t be a drop out.

Pasadena, TX

10/2/16

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(13:8) Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

(13:9) For this, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

(13:10) Love does not wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

Area Gospel Meetings

The Stallings Drive church of Christ in Nacogdoches will host a meeting with **David Thomley** October 9-13.

The Rice Road church of Christ in Tyler will host a meeting with **Jeff Smelser** October 9-14.

The Hwy. 79 church of Christ in Henderson will host a meeting with **Walton Weaver** October 9-12.

Lesson Topics are available on the flyers in the foyer.

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Our Gospel Meeting

We will host a meeting with **Don Truex** November 13-16.

Let’s make preparation to attend each service and invite someone else to join us.

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NEWS (continued from back page)

- Continue to remember **James and June Johnson, Willie Don Davis, Ron Traugher, Judy Hinson, Vivian Stroman, William White, Catherine Moss, Wade Miller, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Charles Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford.**
- Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Lloyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Lelda Thompson.*