

- A. A missionary said, *Americans sing **When the Saints Go Marching In** while they should be marching out!*
  - 1. You & I have to be careful to not settle into a “*church building*” concept of Christianity.
  - 2. Our interest & efforts must be extended naturally & regularly outside of our assembly in this bldg.
- B. Christian must **Come In** & *as a consequence* → **Go Out!!!**
  - 1. The real test of a church’s vitality is not what takes place in the assembly, but what takes place after the
  - 2. After worshipping, Isaiah said: *Here am I, send me!* **Isa. 6:1-8** \\assembly disperses
  - 3. Since we focused on the urgency of *Evangelism* this a.m.; it is appropriate for us to examine *Visitation*

Discuss.

**I. THE REASON FOR VISITING.**

- A. The necessity of visiting is clearly established by God.
  - 1. **Ac. 15:36** - *Let us go again and **visit** our brethren... and see how they do.* (**Jas. 1:27; Mt. 25:36**)
  - 2. **visit** = *to look over; look after; to inspect* ----- This indicates more than a social call.
- B. When we think about what hinges on the visits we need to make we began to see how important it is.
  - 1. The welfare of our brethren depends on it, (**Ac. 15:36**)
  - 2. Religion is incomplete without it, **Jsa. 1:27**
  - 4. When we appear before judgment seat of Christ, he is going to ask us for a visitation report, **Mt. 25:36**
- C. The sinner will not normally come marching in, so we must go marching out!
  - 1. Where are the masses of lost people tonight? (including our unfaithful brethren)
  - 2. Are they playing sports (golf, tennis), at the lake or camp grounds, at home watching T.V. or out w/  
friends?

**II. THE REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITING.**

- A. Have to have the correct concept of sin: (book: *What Ever Became of Sin?*)
  - 1. Carl Menninger impressed our nation yrs. ago w/ idea that *sin* is being squeezed out of our vocabulary.
  - 2. See the spread of sin in the days of Noah, **Gen. 6:5, 7.**
  - 3. In **Gen. 18:32 & 19:24**, you have witness the acceptance & boldness of sin.
  - 4. The devastating affects of sin is fixed in our minds as we picture the crucified Christ atop Mt. Calvary.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> requirement: ***We must 1<sup>st</sup> give (dedicate) ourselves to the Lord.*** **2 Cor. 8:5**
  - 1. Paul was ready to preach because.....he 1<sup>st</sup> gave himself, **Rom. 1:14f (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20)**
  - 2. Whole-hearted commitment is all that Jesus will accept, **Lk. 9:59-62 (Ac. 21:13)**

**III. THE REWARD FOR VISITING.**

- A. There will be joy in this life, **1 Thes. 2:19**, Those brought to Christ = our hope, joy & crown!
  - 1. In 3 Jn. 4, John’s gtest. satisfaction was to know of those he taught who remained faithful (c.**Phil.2:22**)
  - 2. Paul explained the *reward* received when you learn that babes in Christ have matured, **1 Cor. 3:13-15.**
- B. There will certainly be rewards in heaven, as well.
  - 1. **Dan. 12:3** - *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*
  - 2. (Principle in **Mt. 10:42** seems to clearly teach that rewards can be anticipated for administrating to others needs.)

Concl.

- A. In real estate, 3 most significant factors are: *location, location, location.*
  - 1. In becoming successful as a growing N.T. church, Ira North used to say, 3 most significant factors are visitation, visitation, visitation.
  - 2. We need to visit the hospitals, the shut-ins, the elderly, new comers, absentees, neighbors, as well as our own brothers & sisters who are faithfully serving the Lord.
- B. Think of how just 1 visit changed absolutely everything – when Christ visited the earth.
- C. If you have not let Christ take control of your life as of yet, it is time that you let this stranger into your heart.