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Why We Should Go to Church

By Ven. Archdeacon Cady, D.D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Toronto. 1. If we believe that One is our Master even Christ, we conclude that "all we are brethren." The Christian faith redeems us from selfish isolation and incorporates us into a society of the redeemed. It is a true instinct of the Christian soul which seeks for communion with other Christians. From earliest times Christians have gathered together in common worship, have worked together in common service, and have felt their hearts kindled by a common flame of love and devotion. An apostolic writer at the beginning of the Church's history warned Christians not to forsake the assembling of themselves together. The first glimpse a heathen writer gives us of the primitive church reveals a meeting of believers early on the first day of the week to sing hymns to Christ as God. Through every age the collective wisdom of Christendom has held to this worthy tradition of public worship as a Christian's privilege and duty. Even through ages of bitter persecution, when individualism and separativeness might have seemed the path of safety. A sense of the vital value of common outward acts of worship and fellowship, compelled Christians to cling to their observance. This ancient tradition cannot lightly be neglected. We follow a noble succession of worshippers. We link ourselves with a great multitude to whom the world owes its choicest moral and spiritual possessions, and its greatest religious and philanthropic uplif.

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of God and the soul. There are many teachers and many schools to-day, but the Church is par excellence the teacher of the exalted God. Where else will the average man receive instruction in that Book of Books which in all the wide variety of its contents sets forth the highest morality and the purest religious basis, sanction and dynamic thereof? This sacred volume, unveils as none other does, the heart of God. His seeking love and His redemption of sinners through Jesus Christ. These are the supreme things that we need to hear, and know, and obey. The book which claims to be the book which is read and expounded in worshipping assemblies. 3. The Church is a great evangelizing body. We go to church to pledge ourselves afresh to be evangelists. Every Christian is called to be witness for Christ. He may do this work most effectively by personal dealing with individuals, and there may be as many varieties of appeal as there are individual members; but in public worship each Christian receives a new call, a new inspiration and a new consecration to his task of evangelization. A non-worshipping church would speedily lose the spirit of conquest, and the whole world would be the poorer. 7. There are many philanthropic bodies to-day apart from the Christian church. But most of these are guided and supported by church members. Most philanthropies would fare badly but for religious inspiration and religious workers. The church still remains one of the great direct philanthropic agencies in the land. No matter what changes may be made in the social system, or in economic arrangements, there will remain the need of philanthropy. By going to church we publicly identify ourselves with this greatest of philanthropic organizations, which directly and indirectly serves the neediest of the race. 8. In spite of all its imperfections and failures to realize its own ideals, the Church is the greatest organized force in the world for moral reform and civic and national righteousness. We should not allow the faults of individual members to keep us apart from this best available institution for the betterment of mankind. By going to church we give our public adhesion to those moral ideals which must be supreme in the individual and in the nation. If God's will is to be done on earth, as it is in Heaven, the Church is not called on to solve all social problems directly, but rather to provide the men, the principles and the public that will solve them. The Church is to be militant against evils, is to rouse souls to a sense of civic obligation, is to quicken the civic conscience, to keep moral problems before men's minds, to create atmospheres, sentiments and inspirations. This means that every member of the Church has his immediate respon-

ibility for this work. He aids in this great effort by his constant attendance at public worship. He will be helped himself and he will help others, to put first things first, to teach the deep-seated moral causes of social wrongs and to supply the most lasting and effective remedy to the ills of human life. 9. In these days when we think in world terms and do business with all continents, we cannot be indifferent to the religious and moral conditions of non-Christian peoples. The greatest, and indeed the only institution which is seeking to send them the highest spiritual blessings is the Christian Church. By our attendance at the public worship of God we are enrolling ourselves as active and interested members of this army for world-wide Christian conquest. We are forwarding messages of good will and tokens of love to distant peoples and bridging the separations between the races. 10. Among all the organizations on earth the Church is central. On the organized and divine Christian society all efforts for the uplifting of mankind ultimately depend. No other institution can replenish the spiritual forces of humanity so that the material development of the community may not outstrip its moral growth. Mr. Beebie well says that "the pressing obligation of the Church is to save the world from materialism. Democracy is a greater peril than plutocracy, when its action is governed by principles of materialism." Is it not, therefore, worth while to be in the Church, to work and pray for the Church? Because of what we can get for our own highest life, and because of what we can give to the community and to the whole world we do well to go to the house of God in company. Public worship is the chief agency for the cultivation and

enrichment of the spiritual life of the world. "Can fall upon the loss of worship?" asks Emerson. "Then all things go to decay. Literature becomes frivolous. Science is cold. The eye of youth is not lighted by the hope of other worlds, and age is in that humor. Society lives to trifle, and when men die we do not mention them." -Toronto News. EAST MOUNTAIN (Special to The Standard.) We were pleased to see some items from Duncan Rock Hill, and hope the correspondent may continue to write. Born, on February 1st, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thompson, a daughter. Congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hutchinson of Redwing, visited at Mr. John Martin's on Sunday last. Miss Mary Humberstone, of Epping, and Miss Alma, of Irish Lake, spent the weekend at their parental home here. Mr. Harrison, of Flesherton, visited at Mr. John Martin's on Friday last. Miss Mary Welsh, of Markdale, visited the latter part of the week at her home here. We are very sorry to report Mr. Bob Flavell, critically ill with pneumonia, but hope to hear of a speedy recovery.

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