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## Cbristian Endeavor.

THE DUTY AVD REWARDS OF CHURCH GOING.
kev. W. S. stctavisht, b.d., st. george.
Oct. 7-Heb. x. 25. (Mecting lad by the pastor.)
This column is not intended for pastors. We have neither the ability nor the inclination to write for them. But for the sake or some endeavorers who belong to churches whose pulpits are vacant, and for the sake of others who may meet at an hour when the pastor cannot be with them, we give a few notes as usmal. In the discussion we shall follow the lines suggested by the title.

1. The duty. That it is a duty is made clear from the fact that God enjoins it. "Ye shall keep My Sabbath and hallow My sanctury; 1 am the Lord " (Lev. xix. 30.) Those who absent themselves from the bouse of God cannot hallow is. We are reminded that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. x. 25). God has intimated that He takes a spectal interest in the church, and in its worship. "The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob" (Psalm lxxxvii. 2). What docs that expression mean? Let Spurgeon supply the answer. "At this hour the mystical teaching of these words is plain.
. 3 Jelights in the prayers and prases ot - bistiari families and individuals, but He .as a spectal eye to the assemblies of the faithful, and He has a special delight in their devotions in their church capacity.
This should lead each separate believer to identify himself with the church of God; where the Lorl reveals His love the must, there should each believer most delight to be tound. Our own dwellings are verg dear to us, but we must not prefer them to the assemblies of the saints."

Ifthere were no other reason for attending church, the one given above would be are not at liberty to disobey. But even if we are not at liberty to disobey. But even if God had nol epjoined us to attend church, the duty would still be incumbent upon us, for Christ set us the example. Whatever Christ
did by way of example we should imitate. What, then, was His custom in this regard? While He was still a child He went up with His parents to the feast 'at Jerusaleup (Luke ii. 42, 43). After He entered upon His public ministry, He attended the feasts rexularly (John iv. 45 ; v. 1 ; vii. 10 ; $x .22$; xii. 2 ). Jesus atteaded not only these great testivals, but He also autended regularly the more simple services in the synagogue (Iuke iv. 16).

Again it is our duty to attend the services of the house of God because the Creator bas endowed us with $=$ spirtual nature which requires food, and it it is our duty to partake of
food for the nourishment of our body, it is food lor the nourishment of our body, it is
equally our duty to partake of food for the nourisbment ot the soul. Now, all the past bistory of the church proves that God has honored the preaching of the Word as He has honored no other instrumentality ta convicling and converting sinners, as well as in building up His people in knowledge, righteousness and holiness. While we shoould make a diligent use of all the other means which He has provided for our spiritual pourishment and growth, we should not neglect this one, which He has so signally honored.
II. The rewards. "A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand" (Psalm lxaxiv. 10). It is better because me have brought to our remembrance trutbs which we understood before; better because we generally receive some new views of truth and duty; better because we encourage those who minister to us is holy things; beller because our sympathies are broadened by joiniag in the prayers which are there ofiered up; better because we enjoy the commaniod of saints; Hetter because God tbere specially manifests His presence, belter because Fe find that Jesus meets Fith us the according to His promise (Matt. xviii. 20); better because we gencrally hear something to comfort, to e
courage and to stimulate us in our
courage and to stimulate us in our worle.
Let us look at an illustration by way of contrast. "Iesus came." How much be missed by be Jesus came. How much be missed by be ing absent from that blessed Sabbath evenwas left for a whole week in sorros, doubt and glosm. Jesus said to the other disciples when Thomas was absent, "Peace be unto you." But there was no peace for Thomas His absence prepared him lor disoelicyang the testimonp of the disciples, and for disbelieving even Cbrist Himself when he sem Him. Had he been present, woald he now have selt that the eveaing spent there not better than a thousand spent clecrohera?


One of the oldest trees in England 18 the "Tortworth" chestnut, in Gloucestershire. It is supposed to have attained its maturity in the reign of Egbert, and in 1766 it measured 52 feet in height and 50 feet in circumference.

## WOMAN.HOOI

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Mr. I. P. Frini, 561 Pearl St., New York.
Dgar Sir, Four concerns figared on lighting our church. Your estimate was the bighest. We investigated all of them. The committee was of the opinion that it was better to pay a little more and know what we would get, than to pay a little less and to tako chances. The figures are now all in, and are just right. Everybody is pleased with them. We don't know but we might have done just as well with some of the other parties for a little less money, but we believe in repatation, and that the raan who has been in business the longest, and has done the greatest business, gives you more for your money, and that the man who under figures makes it up at the expense of the customer.

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Wm. J. Coorbr, Secretary,
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