

“You Will Be Missed”

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Life is filled with variables—some are a matter of choice; some are not; some are enjoyable and fulfilling and some are nothing short of burdens. Sometimes life seems to come crashing in and cherished priorities become unattainable. Once two friends had to separate company one from another because one had a demanding, domineering father with enough power to create a destructive uprising on a national level due to his jealousy. The pitiful father was King Saul; the two friends were his son Jonathan and the next in line for the throne, David. At the time of their separation Jonathan assured David, “To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty” (I Sam. 20:18).

Like the love of one dear friend for another that causes heartache upon separation, there always have been situations that arise in people’s lives in the local congregation that cause brethren to miss one another’s company in the work and worship of the church. Vacations and travel outings cause you to be “missed, because your seat will be empty.” Responsible Christians are urged to account for their financial commitment to the local church when planning these legitimate events. After all, our giving must reflect purposing in our hearts (II Cor. 9:7). Even when sickness is the reason we are out, provided we have been blessed with occupations that continue to generate income when we have to be off, what greater sense of satisfaction when we otherwise feel left out of everything to know that through our contribution on the first day of the week we still enjoy a strong and viable fellowship with the Lord’s church. Now, clearly where there is no income there is no obligation, yet there are those in our experience who put the able-bodied to shame during such times of duress by giving the widow’s mite. What powerful examples. No wonder they are seriously missed by all who love them so dearly.