

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. I have worshipped many places and one thing is unfortunately common.
- B. The invitation is being abused, and therefore loses its effectiveness.
- C. Both the congregation and the preacher are at fault.

### I. PROBLEM'S WITH THE INVITATION (CONGREGATION).

- A. Many people feel the preacher is about to "wind it up" and rake song books out of the racks.
- B. Others are packing up the toys, games, cookies, Bibles, and books.
- C. Some are putting on coats, combing the kids hair, tying shoes, or trimming finger nails.
- D. Others I have seen go to the restroom during the invitation song. (If you have waited during the 20-30 sermon you should be able to wait just a few more minutes.)
- E. Saddest of all is the fact that some people even leave during the singing of the invitation song.

### II. PROBLEMS WITH THE INVITATION (PREACHERS).

- A. Illustrations that run too long destroy an effective train of thought.  
(Had a professor in college who gave seven illustrations per point).
- B. Preacher stops too abruptly and the song leader is not aware and therefore unprepared.
- C. Some preachers use "tear-jerking" stories and request extra verses of the invitation song be sung.
- D. Preachers sometimes feel the response of people has due to their "great" sermon, or lack of response due to a "poor" sermon.
- E. Preachers just "tack-on" the plan of salvation at the end, instead of "incorporating" it in a good lesson.

### III. MY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

- A. Be sure the song leader has chosen an appropriate song. "God be with You" during the invitation and "Break Thou the Bread of Life" before the Lord's Supper are both inappropriate.
- B. As congregational members be prepared to step out of the pew and allow others to come forward easily.
- C. Be sure to follow the song leader (as always) and sing as if you are extending the invitation with the song (if fact you are).
- D. Do not rake the song books from the holders. It can be done carefully and silently as not to interfere with the lesson.
- E. Worshipping is not a spectator sport, but our service to God. Let us pay careful attention to the entire sermon, even to points (like the plan of salvation) that we know very, very well. Our genuine interest can show a non-Christian how serious their soul's salvation is.

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The invitation time of our worship can be the most "exciting" time as we see people respond to the gospel message.
- B. Let's put our faith and knowledge into action by extending an effective invitation"
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring-Xians.