

THE VIEW FROM THE PULPIT

From the Pulpit...

The watch checker: He wants to limit the time for each message, even if the Lord doesn't
(It gets worse if he or she begins shaking their watch!)

The "Amen'er": He or she will "Amen" even if the sermon is about Satan's negative attributes
(Obviously not the most discerning listener)

The hand raiser or praiser: The hand(s) will go up regardless of what the preacher says
(Makes you wonder if they are asking to be excused to use the restroom)

The church "runner": You have to wonder where this unusual activity came from (mostly in the South)???
(Can't find it in a King James Bible)

The skirt puller: Keeps trying to hide the fact that her skirt is too short
(Don't bother sister, there isn't enough material there. She is kin to ladies who don't know how to sit like a lady even though otherwise dressed modestly)

The early bird: He or she has to leave the service when the clock strikes noon
(They have to get to their favorite restaurant before the Sunday crowd arrives)

The service interrupter: They have to go in and/or out of the service to check on their kids in the nursery, or class, or to retrieve something from their vehicle, or *whatever...*
(This is no doubt the biggest distraction for the preacher and other sincere and interested folks in the service)

The habitual late arriver: Can't make any service on time
(But they are the first in line when their favorite store has a sale)

The preacher corrector: Has to correct the preacher's grammar, theology or even his motives
(You have to wonder how frustrated they must be when watching TV, etc. and can't correct the game play or the director or actor in a drama)

The smart phone checker: Of course they are following the Bible on their phone app, right?
(Oops, no, they don't have a Bible app on their phone...hmmm)

The snoozer: They can't make it through a service before nodding off
(But they can watch a sports game or movie at home for hours O.K.)

The commentator: Seems they have to comment to someone nearby about the sermon or lesson often
(Or maybe they are commenting on Mrs. Christian's new hat or dress?)

The "don't count on me" member: They may have a hangnail or a runny nose or some other malady (real or not)
(Or perhaps they are just looking for an excuse to do anything other than coming to church)

The invitation avoider: Apparently the Lord never speaks to this person's heart
(They haven't been down the aisle in so long they don't even know the color of the carpet near the pulpit)

The sincere saint or sinner: Tears or no tears, these folks allow the Holy Spirit to work
(They are not at church to criticize or worry about what someone may think if they respond to the invitation)

THE VIEW FROM THE PEW

From the Pew...

The honest seeker: Came to church to get something helpful from the Bible via the preacher
(Prayed that the preacher would receive help from the Lord)

The prayer warrior: Came to church expecting God to answer his or her prayers
(Pleased, not intimidated, when the message speaks to his or her spiritual needs)

The true sheep: Desiring to be fed spiritually healthy food from the pulpit
(Has a biblical right to this expectation)

The open hearted saint: Comes anticipating God to work in his or her heart
(Not just a pew filler, but a sincere saint)

The chronic critic: No matter the sermon from the Scriptures this person will find fault
(Didn't come expecting a blessing, but to criticize and critique)

The distracted disciple: Allows anything or anybody to distract their attention
(Don't expect them to change pews to avoid distractions...especially to get closer to the pulpit, the man of God and the Bible – usually sits in the back)*

**Of course someone has to sit in the back of the auditorium, but that should not be your first choice.*

The defeated disciple: Knows his or her issues and desires change
(Burdened and looking for a blessing and for God to do a work in their heart)

The super sleuth: Tries to find something to criticize. (Related to the chronic critic above)
(See some of those listed above under "The View from the Pulpit".)

The confused saint: Cannot understand why he or she is not being fed as expected from the pulpit...maybe it really is the preacher's fault!
(Hopefully the preacher is being Spirit led and is diligent in prayer, study and preparation...especially heart preparation)

The "contemporary Christian": Always looking for a new preacher or a new Bible version or a new guru to follow.
(If this person's pastor is not saved, God called and directed no new "guru" or contemporary preacher or "bible of the month" will help this poor person)

The church hopper: May actually be saved and just maybe there is no real Bible centered church or God-called preacher in the area.
(If the above is true perhaps he should look for other dissatisfied saints in the area who would gladly help in starting a KJV (AV1611) Bible centered church. Otherwise he or she should just grow where they are planted)

FINAL NOTE: Some of the above observations are tongue-in-cheek but for the most part these are practical and observable situations that occur in every church to some extent. *"If the shoe fits (preacher and pew filler), put it on!"*

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