HITCHHIKING

"With his thumb, a hitchhiker says, 'You furnish the gas, car, attend to the repairs and upkeep, supply the insurance and I'll ride with you. But if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages.'" Although most of us have not considered this before, the statement above which appeared in a major publication is true ln every respect. The tragic fact is that the same principle is true in spiritual matters as well.

There are many members of the church today who are nothing more than hitchhikers. By their actions they are saying, "You go to all of the assemblies, take care of tho minimal tasks such as cleaning the building, study the Bible and do the teaching, do the giving, and I'll just go along for the ride. But if things don't suit my fancy, I'll be the first to complain and criticize. And if you don't do things my way, I'll deprive you of my company and hitch a ride with some other congregation." Such uninformed people are not interested in the work of the church at all. Their only concern is, "What's in it for me?" These are the people that cannot be depended upon to do ANYTHING unless they can see something in it for them.

It is the duty of every faithful Christian to be aware of such parasites. They can drain the life completely out of the local congregation. Christ says, "by their fruits ye shall know them. (Matthew 7:16) Thus we need to watch the fruits that are borne by those who are tho constant complainers. If complaining is the only fruit they are baring, chances are that they are nothing short of spiritual hitchhikers.

Don't allow yourself to become a hitchhiker. Set your mind to do all that you can to further the cause of Christ in this area. If it means sweeping the floors of the building in which we meet for worship, or taking a part in the public worship, we should be willing to carry our share of the load. A hitchhiker is immature and irresponsible -- a Christian must be mature and responsible in the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 16:13; Galatians 6:4,5)

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