

COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Focus on God's Word

Find the Truth

Follow the Lord



Sunday Worship Assembly 9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes (All Ages) 11:00 AM
Wednesday Adult Bible Class 1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes (All Ages) 7:00 PM



The Correspondent

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The Spirit of God Leaves the Temple

Jeff Arnette

There's a particular kind of silence that happens when someone you love pulls away from you a little at a time. No slammed door, no final argument. Just a slow, quiet distance that you almost don't notice until one day you realize they're gone.

That's the picture Ezekiel gives us in chapter 10. Israel had turned from God to idols, until God finally refused to keep dwelling in their presence. And the way he left was almost unbearable to read. "Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim" (Ezekiel 10:18, ESV). From there, the glory moved from the Holy of Holies, out of the temple, out of the city, and settled on the Mount of Olives (Ezekiel 11:23). One slow step at a time, God's presence withdrew from the people he had chosen. And no one noticed. No one cared enough to stop it.

We don't bow down to carved idols, so it's easy to assume this story isn't about us. But most of us have quietly turned our trust and confidence toward something other than God without ever calling it idolatry. It rarely happens all at once. It happens the way it happened to Israel, one small compromise at a time, until we're leaning on our own reasoning, our own comfort, our own plans, and calling it wisdom.

That's the real warning in this passage. When we place our trust somewhere besides God, it always moves us further from him, whether we feel it happening or not. Scripture is blunt about this. "Do not love the world or the things in the world" (1 John 2:15). "Friendship with the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4). "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Romans 12:2). These aren't threats. They're warnings from someone who wants to be trusted, not replaced.

Here's what's most sobering about Ezekiel's vision. It's possible for our lives to be far from God, and for us to still think everything is fine. Israel didn't grieve their loss until it was too late to do anything about it.

Jesus said plainly that no one can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). We can't build our lives around what we want and still expect God to show up on our terms whenever we need him. He is not our slave, and he does not serve us. He alone is meant to be Lord of our lives.

If it feels quiet in your prayer life lately, that's worth paying attention to before it becomes normal. God hasn't moved. But it's worth asking, honestly, whether we have. The glory of the Lord left slowly and no one stopped it. We don't have to let that happen to us.

Thanksgiving Gift
Boxes
10:00 AM
November 21, 2026



<https://bulletingoldextra.blogspot.com/2026/10/the-spirit-of-god-leaves-temple.html>

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth. 1 Thessalonians 1:8

A SOLDIER, AN ATHLETE, AND A FARMER

2 Timothy 2:3-6

I. A Soldier- v. 3-4, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, Matthew 10:34-39, Luke 9:57-59, 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

II. An Athlete- v. 5, Romans 10:1-4, Matthew 15:1-9, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

III. A Farmer- v. 6, Ecclesiastes 9:10, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Colossians 3:23, Galatians 6:9, James 5:7

Worship Service

Announcements

Song: 929 Glorify Your Name

Song: 720 Watch and Pray (Vs. 1, 4)

Prayer

Song: 495 O the Depth and the Riches

Lord's Supper and Contribution

Song: 717 Victory in Jesus

Song: 200 Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:3-6

Sermon

Song: 197 Have Thine Own Way, Lord (Vs. 1, 2, 4)

Song: 755 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder (Vs. 1, 3)

Prayer

2 Timothy 2:3-6

U F I R S T R E G C O W R A P
P A S S O W T H A T U U E A R
U R R C S I M E D O L A R C S
A A I I E C A T I E F T R E N
D P A T L E R A S R A O T L T
E E F E G D E O D K P D C S A
H E F L N O R S E S F A O A G
A L A H A O E R E H F L L D E
R P L T T G S D W H D L E E D
D R E A N R I E C I A S P G E
W E U D E A A S E E G W N A E
O A S E R A F R A W C U C G Y
R F S T A H R H T F E E G N Y
K U E S E A K A E T A A A E E
I E L I H R E L S R L R N S N
N E N L A D P I A T S U M E D
G M U N T S R F E U O Y D E U
E F O E C H E E L S R R E D R
U G A C C I E E P N C E R M E
A S E T E P M O C R O W N E D

YOU
MUST
ENDURE
HARDSHIP
GOOD
SOLDIER
CHRIST
ENGAGED
WARFARE
ENTANGLES
AFFAIRS
LIFE
PLEASE
ENLISTED
COMPETES
ATHLETICS
CROWNED
UNLESS
RULES
HARDWORKING
FARMER
FIRST
PARTAKE
CROPS

2 Timothy 2:3-6 (NKJV)

- ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
- ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
- ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;
for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. John 4:23*