



**Habits: Church**  
**1 Peter 2:9-10**  
**5 of 5**

A number of years ago, my husband and I had the wonderful opportunity to vacation in Europe. In about three and a half weeks we visited thirteen different nations. When we'd enter a country, we'd get our passports stamped, exchange currencies, learn a few key phrases, and then off we'd go to visit the natives. We'd wander through outdoor markets, peruse museums, and sample the cuisine. We'd exchange a few niceties with the locals, sit on the steps of cathedrals, watch the life of the town go by, take a picture or two, and purchase a little something to remind us of our time there, and then we were off. We had a wonderful vacation. Our hearts weren't changed in any significant ways by our little visits, but then they weren't meant to be. We were tourists.

It seems to me that what I've just described is very close to many people's understanding of the congregational life of the local church. On any given [weekend], many tourists can be found in church. They pop in for forty-five minutes or an hour, sing a chorus or two, and exchange niceties with the locals. They sample some of the local cuisine, they might purchase a book or CD to remind them of their visit, and then they race to their cars to get to their favorite restaurant before the rush or home before the game. For many people, church is simply ... about being a tourist, and our land is filled with



daily Bible reading

September 14, 2014



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tourist-friendly churches.

[Elyse Fitzpatrick, *Because He Loves Me* (Crossway, 2010), pp. 173-174]

The Daily Bible Reading for this week will remind us of the importance of our congregational worship.

- DAY ONE – Hebrews 10:24-25
- DAY TWO – Psalm 95
- DAY THREE – Psalm 96
- DAY FOUR – Nehemiah 9:1-38
- DAY FIVE – Revelation 5

**Memory Verse:** *"They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God."* **Nehemiah 9:3**

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