

Chosen to Participate

As a kid I remember being with a group when a decision would be made to play ball or some other game. Two friends were picked to be the captains and they would start to choose the ones they wanted to be on their team. Depending on the game to be played and how many kids there were, some were chosen to participate. If you weren't chosen, you became a **spectator**. Sometimes this was very hard to accept and it made you feel unwanted. It's always better when you become a participant. When are chosen, those feelings of not being part of the group are dismissed and the hurtful feelings change to joy.

As we grow older and become part of other groups we still encounter some of those feelings we remembered as kids. There is a difference now because we can choose the part we want: **Spectator** or **Participant**. It's our call.

We can attend services, sit in our pews, listen to the sermons preached and leave when it's over. Or we can greet the person next to us and extend our hand to other members. Getting to know our brothers and sisters is one of the joys of being one of God's chosen people. Taking advantage of the opportunities to help others and getting involved in the work will make you feel like part of God's team and our Christian family. God has chosen us to be on His team. He wants us to be participants and not spectators.

God gave us all talent and it takes all different kinds of talent to make up a team. He wants each of us to use our talents to help one another and to build each other up so we might become stronger in faith and works. We recognize most teams today by the uniforms they wear, which usually have bright colors and a special insignia. God's team does not wear uniforms, but we are known as Christians that **do** the good work of the Lord.

We need to keep this in mind: "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot! Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15, 16). A new year is beginning and our workload will be increasing. Our family needs to become regenerated to have a spiritual renewal.

What will be your decision? Participant or Spectator?

For the elders,
Don Wagner