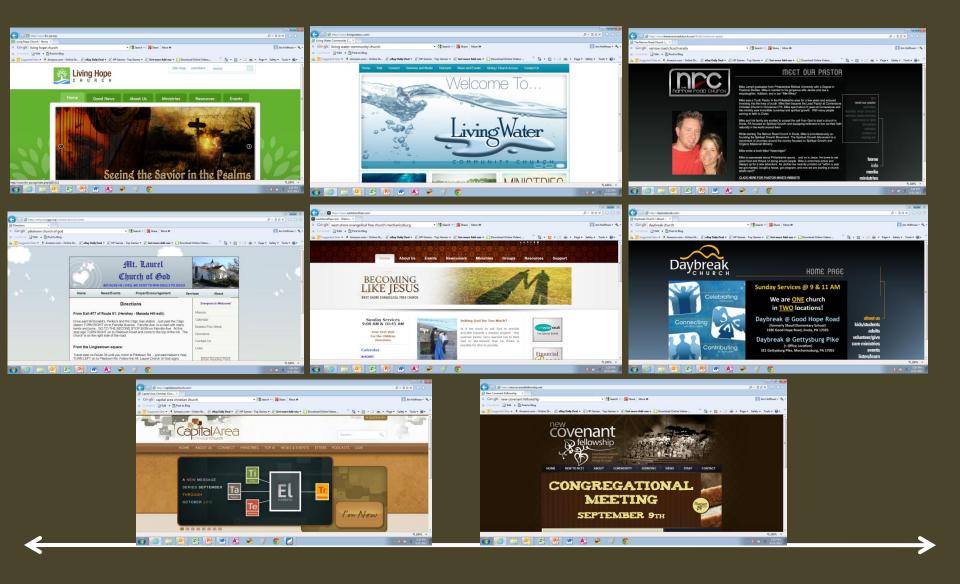


The Journey

Lesson #1 Worship Preference & Style

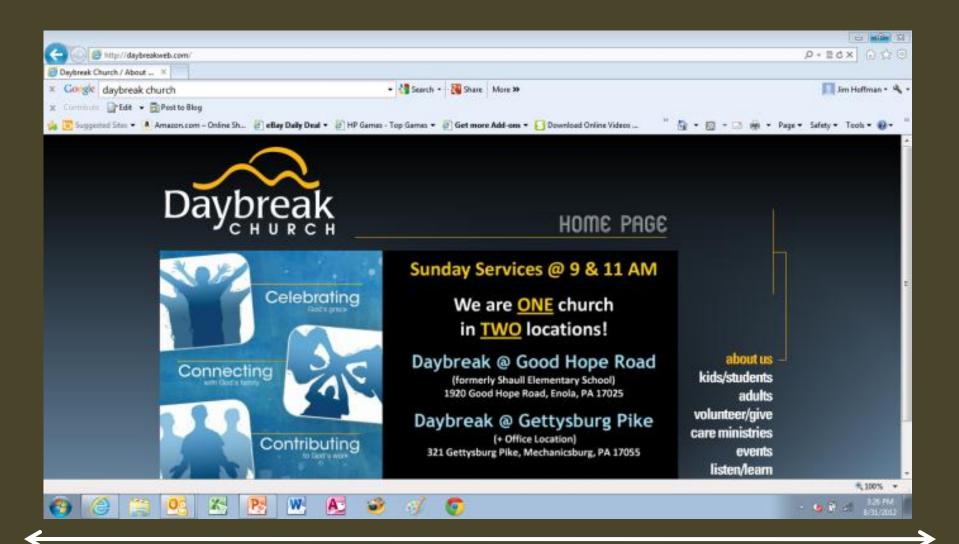
Jim Hoffman



















Observations

- Two choirs, 7 of 8 had bands.
- Only two had Sunday Adult Bible classes.
- All are casual dress.
- Most do Powerpoint.
- Bibles are not expected.
- Alter calls were also rare.
- So what does any of this mean?

- Nearly all of the preaching was for seekers.
- All of them do the dreaded "meet and greet".

Christians and Church Attendance

For years, the Gallup Research Organization has come up with a consistent figure — 40 percent of all Americans, or roughly 118 million people, who said they attended worship on the previous weekend. Recently, sociologists of religion have questioned that figure, saying Americans tend to exaggerate how often they attend. By actually counting the number of people who showed up at representative sample of churches, two researchers, Kirk Hadaway and Penny Marler found that only 20.4 percent of the population, or half the Gallup figure, attended church each weekend.

A New Phenomenon

More and more professing Christians do not attend Sunday morning church at all.

So what do you think of that?

Style & Substance

 Rom 14 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. 2 For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. 3 Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord's help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval.

Style & Substance

 I am convinced that a choice of church has a lot to do with our preferred style of worship.

 I am also convinced that what we like, we tend to want to impose.

Getting it right versus being right.

Perspective

 "It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of paradox, where through the ugly defeat of a cross, a holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat; healing through brokenness; finding self through losing self." **Chuck Colson**

The Big Personal Question

· How will I choose to express my faith?

Questions