

## THOSE LONG SERVICES

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There is general discussion from time to time on the subject of present-day church going. Why don't thousands of men and women go to church in the big cities who formerly—"in the old home town"—attended two and three services each Sunday?

There probably are as many answers as individuals who do not go. Passing over the much debated subject these days of whether there is a Supreme Being, which, of course, a vast majority of all people in America and other "civilized" nations accept, there are reasons which any progressive minister and congregation should give serious consideration.

In Chicago, for example, many of the outstanding religious groups, including the University of Chicago chapel service, Dr. Preston Bradley's Peoples church, Christian Science church, Chicago Temple, Methodist, Bahai Temple, Wilmette; Central church, Orchestra hall, and scores of others find ONE HOUR to one hour and thirty minutes at most, sufficient time for a full religious worship, including the minister's address.

A majority of our churches use from two to three hours for a single service.

Regardless of how worshipful a person may feel, all too often the "spirit of worship" is lost in announcements, comments, introductions and numerous collections. By the time of doxology and benediction the feeling of worship has been lost beyond recall.

All too many church groups fail to properly regard the sane atmosphere of worship. Often the proper lighting is overlooked. In winter the church is often cold, and in summer poorly ventilated.

Many churches fail to accord the proper welcome to the "stranger within the gates," and seem to regard their particular congregation as a kind of "closed corporation."

With all the intriguing atmosphere of theatres, many patrons continue to give lusty complaints to the long double-features. Too much is just too much, they say, and they do not always stay.

"Think on these things." The ministers and their officials who think, seldom have complaints on attendance, or growth even in bad weather or lean years.