

The Church of Christ Dog

Neal Pollard, minister of the Bear Valley Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado, tells the story of the faithfulness of a collie that kept showing up at the church in Rockmart, Georgia, where his father, Gary Pollard Sr., was the preacher in the mid-1970s.

The dog apparently knew the schedule of services. Faithfully, rain or shine, summer or winter, “she would be out on the front steps greeting all the members and visitors,”



Pollard said. “She wasn’t allowed inside the building, but she’d dutifully lie on those steps until we were finished with services. Then she would cheerfully bid us all goodbye.”

When everyone had left and the building was locked, “this faithful canine would make her way back home,” Pollard added. “I don’t know how many years this went on, but the notoriety of the ‘Church of Christ dog’ was known throughout the community.”

One Sunday, Pollard said his father preached a sermon about the dog, including these points:

- She was always “at church,” no matter what.
- Surely she was mistreated or had a cross word hurled at her at some point, since not everyone is a dog person.
- Her faithful presence was a great example to the community.
- She greeted everyone freely, not just a select few.
- She didn’t distinguish by age, gender, race or income status.
- If she was not there, as it was on an occasion or two, everyone noticed and was concerned.

We marvel at this collie’s allegiance to the church and its members. Some animals, it appears, can sense what matters to people and react accordingly.

This story is about a dog’s loyalty to a church, and speaks to all of us about our attendance habits and our positive interactions with all kinds of persons.

But it can also remind us of our obligations in the workplace and the effect we have on others.

Those are worthy lessons to reflect on – all from that “Church of Christ dog.”

Jesus said this: *One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much* (Luke 16:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter