

## Hebrews 10:25 9.3.17

Together: Let Us... Hebrews 10:22-25 Series

God designed us not just to believe, but to **BELONG**. And, not only are we to belong, but we are to work together so each one of us can continue in the faith.

**Hebrews 10:25** (NIV) <sup>25</sup> *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

- First of all, **the location of your body on Sunday morning doesn't determine your SPIRITUALITY**. What the author is saying is when you are in the community of authentic Christians, you will be challenged to grow in your faith and will be challenged to good works, but if you stay distant either physically or by your attitude, you will not be available for God to use you in other believers' lives or benefit from others either.
- **When I grew up, church was a mandate, but now today church has become an OPTION**. It is a sad day when people are willing to profess Christ, but are unwilling to identify with His body.
- The church in the time of the book of Hebrews was neglecting to meet together because many of the Jewish Christians were under a terrible persecution and many were afraid to gather in even a small crowd. Christians were staying home to be safe, but in the process, they were losing their **IDENTITY** as Christians. In New Testament times, if a person consistently and deliberately missed opportunities to join with others as church, the assumption was that person had chosen to abandon following Jesus and was no longer part of the local church. **We need the church and the church needs us to play our part**.
- In order for church to work correctly, **ASSEMBLY** is required.

### Why is assembly required?

#### #1 The New Testament church saw going to church as a **PRIVILEGE**.

- Sadly, instead of seeing church as a privilege, many today look for **EXCUSES** on why not to go.
- John Wesley once said, *There is nothing more **UNCHRISTIAN** than a solitary Christian*. If we wanted, we could come up with a million excuses, but the Bible says we shouldn't **miss the opportunity** to assemble together.
- And sadly, instead of seeing church as a privilege, many people today find **PROBLEMS** with the church.

### Why do so many have a problem with the church?

- **#1 The problem with church is church is not a **NECESSITY** anymore**.
- One of the unhealthiest habits of a Christian is to live as a spiritual lone ranger and attack all of life's problems alone.
- **#2 The problem with church is that it doesn't **MEET** all of many's perceived needs**. Throughout this series, the writer of Hebrews tells us that church isn't

just for me, but church is a place for God to meet me and for me to use what God is doing in me to invest and energize others!

- **#3 The problem with church is it is full of **HYPOCRITES****.
- **#4 The problem with church is that you will probably be **HURT** in one**.
- I have been hurt in church and if you hang around long enough, so will you.
- The church is not filled with perfect Christians or pastors, but is filled with imperfect sinners saved by grace.
- We have to **WORK** to make church work.

### Believers stand strong, when they don't stand **ALONE**.

#### #2 The New Testament church saw going to church as a **PRIORITY**.

- When I grew up, church was non-negotiable. **What were my parents teaching me?** That church and the people of the church were a **priority**.
- **Proverbs 22:6** (NIV) *Train a child in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*
- **Church attendance is part of our **TESTIMONY** that we love God** and that our church family is important to us.
- What the world needs to see when we assemble together with other Christians, is that we **ENCOURAGE** one another.
- When you have a low view of community and disregard gathering for corporate worship is not just about **you missing out**, but it's also about you **ROBBING** others of what you are capable of imputing into them.
- **Proverbs 27:17** says, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."*
- **Most of us were born with the gift of discouragement**. For most of us, **we need to make it a **HABIT** to encourage someone every day because if we don't make it a regular habit, we'll only do it when we feel like it**.
- Who can you encourage this week? \_\_\_\_\_

#### #3 The New Testament church saw going to church as a **PRESSING** need.

- Going to church should be our passion because we are drawing closer and closer to the day of Christ's return. There should be a sense of urgency inside of us, knowing that we are surely living in the last days. (see **2 Thessalonians 2:3**)
- According to today's passage, the closer we get to **THE day**, the more often we should meet. The Hebrew writer knows we need the church to encourage us, to challenge us and hold us accountable.

### Assembly Required (see **Matthew 18:20**).

- **Don't be deceived that** it is possible to make a commitment to Christ apart from a commitment to the church.
- **I want you to know today that you cannot live a good Christian life all by yourself**.
- **CH \_\_ CH means nothing unless **UR** in it!**
- Thank God for the privilege we have today.