

## **THE VALUE OF THE ASSEMBLY**

On occasion, someone will ask, “Is it really necessary to attend services on Sunday and/or Wednesday nights?” Perhaps someone else will say, “We are only required to assemble once on the Lord’s day.” It is the case that some ask such questions or make such statements simply because he is young in the faith and as yet he does not understand the import of his queries. However, it is all too often the case that these questions or statements are put forth by those who should know better, who are seeking justification for their absence from the services. In such instances, there is an insight given into the attitude of the individual—just how little must I do in order to fulfill my obligations to God? Such should never be the attitude of a Christian who is seeking to please God. Rather, our attitudes should be how much can we do for the Lord and His cause? Why should we be faithful to attend all the services of the church? The writer of Hebrews gives some very compelling reasons as to why we should assemble faithfully.

First, we should be faithful in our attendance because God is faithful (Heb.10:23). When we are sporadic in our attendance, or when we exhibit a lackadaisical attitude toward the assembly, we waver in our profession of faith. Part of that profession of faith is our duty to assemble with the saints. Our failure to assemble is seen by those within and without the church, and, no doubt, speaks to them as to what has, and what does not have, top priority in our lives. Unfaithfulness in assembling is contrary to the character of God, Who is faithful in all things.

Second, we should be faithful in our attendance because of the encouragement it gives to others (10:24). When we fail to assemble, we fail to provoke our brothers and sisters on to love and good works. Not only do we fail God, but we are guilty of impeding the spiritual progress of our brethren (not to mention our own spiritual growth). All Christians need encouragement to continue the good fight of faith, and the assembling of ourselves together provides that opportunity for much needed encouragement.

Third, we should be faithful in our attendance because we know not when our time upon earth will end. We should encourage and seek encouragement from those of like precious faith, in anticipation of that approaching day (vs.25). The Hebrews writer had in mind the destruction of Jerusalem when he wrote about “the day approaching.” Christ warned his followers to be on the lookout for the signs that would accompany the downfall of Jerusalem (Mt.24). As the time drew nearer for that day, Christians in Jerusalem needed to encourage one another to remain faithful, so that none would perish in the impending destruction, and so that no one would renounce his faith in light of the upcoming persecution. No signs will be given to warn us of the Lord’s coming, so we must always be ready. In light of this fact, we should constantly encourage and edify one another to remain faithful, so that when the Lord comes again, we can all go home together with him. As we, by faith, look for

that coming day, let us do all that we can to be an encouragement to our fellow Christians.

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