

The Importance of Assembling

by Wayne Goff

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

Assembling for worship with the local church is a **command** of God. God *designed* the church, Jesus *built* the church, and it is *suit*ed for Christians in work and worship because God’s infinite wisdom intended for it to do so.

Over the years I have seen **some** brethren’s attitude toward “attendance” as a thing of shame. They make assembling four hours per week sound like the most difficult task! Some want to know where the Bible says they “**have to** attend” Sunday night and Wednesday. Some of the feeblest excuses have been given for not attending a Bible class or hour of worship. And you would think it was a “torture chamber” designed by mean ol’ elders or preachers to deliberately make everyone else suffer!

To these kinds of brethren I give the **biblical reasons** for attending every assembly of the saints possible:

1. **God commanded it, Hebrews 10:25.** Deliberate absenteeism is associated with sinning willfully (v. 26). If you do not enjoy “going to church,” then you need to take a real slow, careful examination of **yourself! 2 Corinthians 13:5.**
2. **God commanded its acts of worship:** singing (**Eph. 5:19**); praying, studying God’s Word (**Acts 2:42**); giving on the first day of the week (**1 Cor. 16:1-2**); and remembering the Lord’s death in the weekly communion (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11**). When a Christian performs these acts of worship from the heart, it provides a dwelling place of God through the Spirit, **Eph. 2:22**. Also, saints are encouraged by the hearty, spiritual acts of worship, **Acts 2:42**.
3. **God commanded assembling for the building up spiritually of every Christian, Hebrews 10:24.** We are to “*consider one another*” — not just ourselves. We are to “*stir up love and good works*” in each other by the praise of the same. It feels good to have someone brag on you for doing what is good, right and acceptable in the sight of God!
4. **Assembling sets the right example, 1 Peter 2:21; 1 Tim. 4:12.** Like the psalmist of old, when you walk in the church door with a smile on your face and a spring in your step, then you are telling everyone present and those watching that “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord!’*” (**Ps. 122:1**). “*For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness*” (**Ps. 84:10**).
5. **Assembling on the Lord’s Day keeps your priorities in order, Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10.** You will **never** be satisfied with the amount of money you make so that you can feel forever secure (Prov. 4:7). All the recreation in the world won’t satisfy your soul. God has always intended for one day out of seven to be a day of rest for man — rest for the body, and/or rest for the soul (Ex. 23:12). Which day of the week do you believe should be designated as “*the Lord’s day*”?
6. **Faithful attendance is a barometer of the soul, Hebrews 10:24-29.** If one thinks nothing of trampling underfoot the Son of God, or counting the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, or insulting God’s grace — then he has **serious soul** trouble, friend! He may give you a dozen well-rehearsed reasons why he “can’t” be there, but he fools nobody but himself. You never met a strong Christian who complained about attending.
7. **“Backsliding” (Prov. 14:14; Is. 57:17; Jer. 2:19; 3:6; etc.)** is a term suggesting great spiritual weakness and inner turmoil and literally describes the weak saint who is “on his way out” of the church as he *gradually* slips toward the back of the building, and as he *gradually* misses more and more assemblies. In time, he will sear his conscience enough to never return! “**Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings! Indeed we do come to You, for You are the Lord our God**” (**Jer. 3:22**).

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