

**“Forsaking the
Assembly...NOT”**

(Hebrews 10:19-25)

Why attend every service?

- In my life as a Christian, I have noticed the following . . .
- There are some Christians who attend every service of the church whenever possible.
- There are other Christians whose attendance is infrequent.

Why attend every service?

- Why the difference?
- Does it really make a difference?
- I am of the conviction that it makes a very real difference!
- It makes a difference in the spiritual life of the Christian.
- It makes a difference in the spiritual life of the congregation.
- I am going to share with you some reasons why every Christian ought to attend every service, unless hindered by illness or circumstances beyond control.

To Fulfill The Commands Of God

- The command not to forsake our assembling.
- This command is found in He. 10:25
- It is warning against the complete abandonment of assembling with others.
- While one may not have abandoned our assembling by attending only once a week . . .

To Fulfill The Commands Of God

- The command to edify one another
- As Christians we have a responsibility to build one another up -Ro. 14:19
- Simply our presence alone encourages others in attendance
- Can we really say we are edifying others . . .
- When we are absent most of the time
- When we attend so infrequently, we hardly know the other members

To Fulfill The Commands Of God

- The command to seek first the kingdom of God.
- Jesus commands us to put the kingdom of God first-Mt. 6:33
- We all have priorities, we must simply put them in the right order.
- When our families and friends see our priorities.

To Grow And Develop Spiritually

- The services are designed for spiritual growth.
- Hearing sermons and attending Bible classes helps one grow and develop into a mature Christian -He 5:12-14
- Even the songs we sing are design to teach as well as praise - Co 3:16
- Prayer, the Lord's Supper, even the collection, are designed to bring us closer to God as well as to one another.

To Grow And Develop Spiritually

- Our growth is dependant on our diet
- One cannot grow as God intended on a starvation diet
- Those who attend irregularly eventually suffer from “spiritual malnutrition”

To Help The Church Function Properly

- The local church needs workers.
- The church is like a body, needing every individual part to do its share - Ep. 4:15-16
- No one can say they're not needed, nor that they do not need others -1 Co. 12:12-19
- To function properly, a church needs both spiritual and physical service.

To Help The Church Function Properly

- The church is dependent upon its members.
- Questions to think about.....
- Do you want the church to grow?
- Do you want to see souls saved?
- Do you want to see the weak encouraged?

To Provide A Good Example And Influence

- For one another- 1 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7-8
- For those in the world- Mt. 5:14-16; Php. 2:15
- For our children- Pr. 22:6

To Be Ready, Watching And Waiting

- Disciples of Christ are to be prepared
- Jesus warned against getting caught off guard- (Mt. 24:44)
- Paul taught the need to be prepared- 1 Th. 5:1-11
- It is part of enduring to the end- Mt. 10:22;24:12-13
- It is part of making the best use of our time- Ep. 5:16

To Be Ready, Watching And Waiting

- Attending every service contributes to our preparation....
- As we sing songs about the Lord's coming
- As we study the Scriptures that promise His return
- What if the Lord came Sunday or Wednesday night, and you were staying at home out of convenience rather than assembled with the brethren?

To Have A Clear Conscience

- Missing services contributes to a guilty conscience.
- When you miss, not because of illness or some other circumstance beyond your control, you feel guilty.
- Because you know where you should be.

To Have A Clear Conscience

- A guilty conscience soon leads to a hardened conscience
- Once your conscience is hardened regarding attendance, it is more likely to become hardened against what is doing right in other areas
- Could you say what the writer in Hebrews did?
– He. 13:18

Because You're A Child Of God

- You love God with all you heart, with all your soul, with all your mind- Mt. 22:37
- God comes first in your life- Mt. 6:24; Luke 14:26
- Christ lives in you- Gal. 2:20
- You seek the things above – Co. 3:1-4; Mt. 6:19-21