

Our Faithfulness To God's House

Hebrews 10:22-25

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If REVIVAL came to this church there would be many manifestations of the working of God in your midst...but one very sure result would be a marked increase in the attendance of all the members to all the services! I found the following great list in an illustration book—it is a great list of “up’s” that happen when revival comes to a church!

“What Happens When There’s Revival?” The lukewarm are fired up- the downhearted look up- the timid speak up- the immature grow up- the idle are harnessed up- the stony-hearted are broken up- the estranged folks make up- the gossips shut up- the disgruntled sweeten up- the silent worshippers sing up- the lazy members get up- and the assembly-forsakers show up!!

Before we get into our passage in Hebrews 10:22-25, I want us to reflect on some truths regarding faithfulness from Psalms and Proverbs.

“Be Faithful And Be Blessed”- Proverbs 28:20.

- **Faithfulness is a Characteristic of God** Ps. 36:5—“Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.”; Lamentations 3:23—Quote **It is Righteous**
- **Faithfulness is a Commodity of Great Value** Prov. 20:6b—“but a faithful man who can find?” **It is Rare**
Prov. 25:13- **It is Refreshing**—“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.” Refresh your MASTER
- **Faithfulness is a Condition of Stewardship** 1 Cor. 4:2—“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” God has always chosen and used faithful people!
It is Required
- **Faithfulness is the Cause of Great Blessings**
Prov. 28:20—“A faithful man shall abound with blessings.”
It is Rewarded

Before we commit this message to prayer, let me say two more things by way of introduction.

- First- your church attendance is critical to your Christian life (to your sanctification)!
- Second, let me say that we need to call excuses by their real name.

Billy Sunday said, “**An excuse is the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.**”

There are legitimate reasons why we are unable to attend church at times, but more often than not God’s people offer excuses!

The phrase “**Let us**” appears a total of 13 times in the 13 chapters of Hebrews. In the four verses before us- we see it 3 times. Our 3 points will be drawn from these three exhortations.

PRAYER

1. Let Us Have Some Communion (v. 22)

It is important to note that there are two gathering places for the Christian. (The throne of grace - vs.19-21; 4:16; and the house of God - 1 Timothy 3:15- here the local church is called “the house of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”). One is spiritual and invisible—the other is physical & visible. We fellowship with our God at the throne of grace, and we fellowship (commune) with other believers at the house of God. The early church met for 4 purposes in Acts 2:42 (preaching/teaching; fellowship; the Lord’s Supper; prayer).

How do you approach the house of God? How you come to church will, to a large extent, determine how you leave church!! Note the wording of verse 22 **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

2. Let Us Have Some Commitment (v. 23, & 25)

So little commitment today!! We see that in all areas of life in our culture: work ethic, commitment to marriage vows, Christians today not speaking up for what they believe—we could go on and on.

- *One of the true tests of our commitment is our faithfulness. Verse 23 tells us that God is faithful. One area of our faithfulness is our faithfulness to God's house.*
- *We cannot claim to be spiritual, mature, or dedicated and neglect our church attendance.*
- *According to Ephesians 4, God has ordained the local church to perfect and equip the saints. He has gifted men (pastors- evangelists- and teachers) with abilities to minister, to train, to edify, to equip.*
- *The Christian who bypasses the church on his or her way to spiritual maturity has taken a detour.*
- *Christ Himself established the church and He displayed great wisdom when He established the local church for our growth process. (Matthew 16:18)*
- *Look closely at verse 25 with me. This is the verse that requires our commitment! We need to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (v. 23) it is verse 25 that helps us do that!! In the Greek language, this is not stated as a suggestion—but as a command!! It is saying, "STOP FORSAKING assembling together!"*
- *The church is dear to the heart of Jesus Christ- we have been purchased with His blood! The assembling of ourselves together needs to be dear to our hearts.*
- *Frequent church attendance is Biblical- Do you see an important phrase in verse 25? "and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*



Again, when God's people are revived and there is a heart for God and His Word, church attendance is craved! It will come automatically! A revived heart hungers and thirsts for righteousness, God's Word and fellowship!!



3. Let Us Have Some Consideration (v. 24, & 25)



Do you understand that you are vital!? Your absence affects others. Your presence encourages others. We need to be considerate of one another by being with each other on the Lord's day in the Lord's house—and any other times the doors are open!!

We need to provoke one another—not to wrath, but to love and good works.

Illustration: coals of a fire. When you want to put out a campfire before retiring to your tents for the night, you take a stick and spread the coals out so they are not touching each other! A lone coal will not last long, and a “lone ranger” Christian's trying to make it on his own will not last long in this hostile, cold world!

Our assembling together is the will of God. When we gather together with the right heart (v. 22), and we are gathering with others in mind (v. 24), we will see God's blessing upon our services!!

Earlier I mentioned EXCUSES:

Our excuses can fall under the 3 R's: Rest (Isa. 40:31); Recreation (Rev. 1:10- the Lord's Day, not yours!) Relatives (Acts 16- jailor's family saved because he had them in contact with Paul & Silas!)

Let Us Have Some Consideration:

- *Consider your own loss!*
- *Consider your preacher!*
- *Consider the fact that you may discourage others!*
- *Consider that you will discourage & hinder church growth*
- *Consider that you are disobeying the Word of God*

As we conclude this message, I want to use that key word CONSIDER and ask you some important questions. I will first read a verse or verses from Hebrews, and then ask a question from that passage.

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;” Hebrews 2:3a

- *Have you considered your need of salvation?*

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

- *Have you considered the fact that Jesus Christ died for you?!*

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14 and 14

- *Have you ever considered the bondage of death you are under if you’re not saved? Do you fear dying today? You know, no man is really prepared to live until he is prepared to die!*

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” Hebrews 9:27

- *Have you ever considered that you will stand before God in judgment? Have you ever considered that you have an appointment with death, and that today could be the day?*

If you were stand before God today and He were to ask you, “Why should I let you into my perfect heaven?” What would you say to Him?! (Salvation Explained.)

Coming to Christ is the most important things you will do in this life. Then, after trusting Christ, deciding to be a faithful Christian is so essential—faithful to Christ, to the local church—His body, faithful to your Bible reading and study, faithful in prayer, faithful in sharing the Gospel with the lost!

Christian, have Communion with your Savior and other saints in your local church. Have Commitment and determine to be faithful to God’s house to all of the services unless you are “providentially hindered.” And, have Consideration for others, for your pastor, for your own spiritual growth and maturity by being faithful to the house of God!!