

Why Church?
Hebrews 10:19-25
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Bible Study
October 11, 2022

There are many reasons for attending church as well as many blessings.

It is very obvious that collective (involving all members) and corporate (combined into one body) worship is a vital part of spiritual life and spiritual growth.

Whether we will admit it or not, we all have, at one time or another, questioned the necessity of attending church. We have come up with excuses and reasons as to why we should not go to church.

Some may ask -

Why can't I stay at home? What are the benefits of going to church? The preacher keeps saying the same things over and over again. There are too many hypocrites in the church. I can worship God at home. I have been hurt in the church so I do not want to go. The excuses and reasons go on and on.

I realize that no church is "perfect," as we would define "perfect," but what you should look for in a church is whether or not the church is spiritually healthy, meaning, the church preaches and practices the Biblical principles that are revealed in the Scriptures.

It is very clear in the Scripture that God commands us to assemble with other believers to worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

In verse 19 of Hebrews 10, we are admonished that "...since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus," for it is due to the fact that Jesus made it possible for us to do so through His finished sacrifice on the cross. Believers now have full access to enter with confidence into the presence of God.

We enter with respect for Who Jesus is and what He has done for us. We enter because we now have the righteousness of Christ and not our own righteousness. The righteousness of Christ makes it possible for us to enter into the presence of God and we can enter with confidence, knowing that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our sins. You do know what the word "all" means, right? "All" means "all" and that's "all" it means.

We can enter with boldness, confidence, into the presence of God because of the blood of Jesus.

2 – Why Church?

Verse 20 of Hebrews 10 is a continuation of the previous verse (19) because in verse 19, it talks about the blood of Jesus that was shed for our sins. In verse 20, it talks about the body (flesh) of Jesus that was torn at His crucifixion.

This is a picture of what took place in the temple when Jesus died on the cross. In the temple the veil “...was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.” (Matthew 27:51) The veil in the temple was torn “from top to bottom” which showed that no man tore the veil but it was God.

The veil in the temple was a symbol which separated men from the presence of God, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies (the Holy Place, the first room of the tabernacle). On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies, the people could not enter the Holy of Holies but had to wait outside for the High Priest to return.

However, when Jesus entered the heavenly temple, this signified that the way into God’s presence was now open “...by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh.” (Hebrews 10:20)

Hebrews 10:21 reminds us that “...we have a great priest over the house of God.” Jesus is our High Priest. He was tempted “in all things as we are, yet without sin” and as a result of that, He can sympathize with our weaknesses, and He serves well to go to the Father on our behalf.

Hebrews 4:14-15 – “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

In the Old Testament under the Levitical system, the High Priest passed through three areas in the tabernacle, the outer court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies, for the purpose of making sacrifices for the sins of the people, which was done once a year.

Under the New Covenant that was established by Jesus, He also passed through three areas, not in the tabernacle, but in the heavens, the atmospheric heaven, the stellar heaven, and God’s abode, after making the perfect, final sacrifice for

the sins of the whole world (John 1:29), not once a year, but for all time and eternity.

Jesus now sits at God's right hand making intercession for us. "Therefore He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him. Since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25

3 – Why Church?

Jesus is interceding on our behalf – He has saved us from the penalty of sin (past)

He is saving us from the power of sin (present) – He will one day save us from the presence of sin (future).

The sanctification process is a continuous process by which believers are being saved from the power of sin in their lives. Once a person accepts (receives) Christ as his/her Savior, they do not become sinless, but as they continue to walk with The Lord and submit in obedience, they should get to a point in their lives in which they "sin less."

Our justification is a once-for-all event accomplished through the death of Jesus on the cross, being buried and rising from the grave. Our sanctification, however, is a continuous process, in which we are being saved from the power of sin in our lives.

Thank God for Jesus and the sacrifice He made on our behalf!

Now, since we have "a High Priest over the house of God," we should be willing to submit to Him, surrender to Him, and serve Him.

How is this done? Glad you asked, let's look at Hebrews 10:22 –

"let us draw near" – draw near is the same word rendered for "come" –

God the Father through Jesus the Son has made it possible for us to come into His presence – we must be willing to come.

"with a true (sincere) heart" – the Greek term behind "sincere" carries the thought of being true, genuine, without a hidden agenda (motive) –

As believer in the Lord Jesus Christ we must be willing to live our lives from the perspective of being true, genuine, having no hidden agenda but demonstrating a genuine commitment to Christ.

"in full assurance of faith" – absolute confidence in the promises of God

Having absolute confidence in the promises of God will enable believers to press on in the midst of trials that will come.

“having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience” –

4 – Why Church?

It is only through the blood of Jesus that our conscience can be relieved of the guilt and accusation of sin. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should ask God on a daily basis, to fill us with the Holy Spirit, so that we can maintain a clear conscience “and our bodies washed with pure water” – the purifying of our lives by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God

This does not refer to water baptism as some people think and teach. This is referring to the sacrificial ceremonies of the Old Covenant, where blood was sprinkled as a sign of cleansing, and the priests were continually washing themselves and the sacred vessels in basins of clear water.

Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse us of our sins –

I John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

You do know what that word “all” means, right? “All” means “all” and that’s “all” it means – ALL SIN.

The “light” refers to truth and holiness. Christians should live their lives submitting to the Word of God, walking daily accordingly, thus having their sins forgiven and being made clean.

As a result of receiving Christ, divine cleansing takes place and the Christian receives power to live under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The Christian’s new life is Spirit-generated, Spirit-empowered, and Spirit-protected.

Since we have this new life that is under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we can do what Hebrews 10:23 declares, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

Jesus Christ is the center of our confession of faith. We as believers should “hold on” to the promises of God because He is faithful to what He has promised. There should not be any “wavering,” even in the midst of persecution or peril.

Trials, temptations, and troubles will come, but Our God is faithful and will provide an escape.

I Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

5 – Why Church?

Our gracious Heavenly Father is so good that He never allows any trial, temptation, or trouble, to come to us, without equipping us to handle it. He has also promised not to allow more than we can handle to come our way without providing a way to escape. We can choose the escape that God has provided or we can give in to the temptation, the choice is ours.

The choice is also ours when it comes to doing what the Word of God says, we can obey or disobey. However, the consequences of disobeying will not be determined by you or me.

We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ can have an encouraging and energetic impact on each other. Hebrews 10:24, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,”

During the time of this writing, it was a very challenging and threatening idea to be a Christian. They were being persecuted for their beliefs and some were even considering turning back to the Levitical system of Judaism (the Law pointed out our sinfulness, proved our inability to keep our end of the covenant, made us prisoners in our guilt, and showed our need of a Savior. The purpose of the Law is also revealed in Romans 3:19-20 as producing a consciousness of sin and holding the world “accountable to God. The Levitical Law did its job well, pointing out the sinfulness of mankind and condemning us for it.) They wanted to go back to this system because of the persecution they were experiencing. This is why the author is encouraging the believers “to stir up love and good works.” The author of Hebrews did not specifically say what they were to do “to stir up love and good works” but he was encouraging them to do “something” to stimulate each other.

The writer of Hebrews goes on to encourage his fellow brothers and sisters to gather together and do not be as some who are not gathering together.

Hebrews 10:25 – “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.”

It is evident from the writing of this text that some made the decision to stop gathering together, perhaps from fear of persecution or for some other reason. The writer of Hebrews continues to encourage the believers to come together to inspire each other with the truth. It is in the local setting of the church where the Word of God is preached and those who attend practice or carry out the Biblical principles which are shared from the Word of God.

6 – Why Church?

Gathering together with other believers is a very important part that contributes to the spiritual life of the church.

Acts 2:42, 46-47 – “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The late great A. Louis Patterson, Jr., would say all the time, “The church at its’ birth, was the church at its’ best.”

As the early church did then, the church today should continue “steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.”

As a result of what the church did in this passage, notice what was the response of the people who heard the Word.

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” Acts 2:41

The Lord blessed the church tremendously!

Notice also that the word “daily” is mentioned twice (NKJV) in this passage, Acts 2:46-47, notice also who was doing the adding to the church (the Lord). The church was apparently meeting “daily.” My! My! My!

What made the early church so powerful? It is evident in the previous verses –

The early church was committed to:

- (1) Continuing in the apostles' doctrine (teaching)**
- (2) Continuing in fellowship**
- (3) Continuing in the breaking of bread**
- (4) Continuing in prayers**

7 – Why Church?

The modern church has its' challenges but the commission remains the same –

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Why should I attend church? Simply stated, because we have been commanded by Our Lord to do so.

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,”

Below are a few other reasons why church attendance is important –

- (1) Fellowship for the purpose of studying scripture together**
- (2) Praying for each other**
- (3) Learning how to live for the Lord under the leadership of a Spirit-filled pastor**
- (4) The church needs each other for strength, for encouragement and for helping each other**
- (5) The church does acts of service together within the body, as well as in the community, reaching out to meet needs**
- (6) You do not have to bear your burdens alone**
- (7) Being obedient to the Lord in carrying out His commands**

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