

Why Should I Go To Church?

Hebrews 10:23-25



Observations


- ▶ “Isn’t the phrase *I go to church*, incorrect because the word, ‘church,’ actually is not a building, but suggests ‘a group of people?’”
- ▶ The word “church” or “Ecclesia” in the Greek means “called out” or a “gathering”
- ▶ We are a group of people “called out” of the world of sinful living by Jesus into the body or Kingdom of Christ, Colossians 1:13
- ▶ So, “to go to church” means you go to where the “called out” meet

“ Please give my greetings to our brethren and sisters at Laodicea and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house.” Colossians 4:15 NLT



Reasons Why I Don't Want To Go and Meet With The Church!


- *“They are all hypocrites!” “I can tell you about people who go to church, and never miss, and their lives are worse than mine. It is not transformative!”*
- *“I don't need the church in order to function with my Lord! I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and besides, the T.V. Evangelist gives good messages.”*
- *“I believe that I can be good and love Jesus, without being a part of a church group.”*
- *“I'm too busy to go!” “Weekends are good chances to catch up on things, fix things around the house; there are my kids sports games, soccer, baseball, and it's a good time for family getaways.”*



Part Of the Problem is a Misunderstanding of “Christian”

Defining a Christian Was a Problem in Biblical Times

- ▶ Some thought being a physical descendant of Abraham (Jew) was what made them what we would call a Christian (someone going to heaven)
- ▶ Others thought a Christian was one who followed the scriptures, but conveniently could ignore them if they didn't like what the Apostles wrote.
- ▶ Point: If God's word tells us to do something, promising that it is good for us, **THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH!**



John 8:31-32 is Clear

“.... If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- A Christian holds on to God's word as true and trustworthy
- Too often, we want to walk away from what Jesus says about handling our daily lives, and separate that from His teachings on eternal life, which we prefer
- We trust Jesus with our souls, but not with our everyday living



If God Values Something, We Should Too! Ephesians 4:11-13

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure the fullness of Christ.”

- Christ has given us Pastors, literally “shepherds,” which, by itself, tells us God’s intentions for Christians
- Since Jesus gives us pastors, this means that He wants us to gather into flocks, or groups, to be provided for with spiritual care.




Why Meet With The “Called Out” Regularly?

#1 To Hear the Preaching of the Word

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12



We Put Ourselves in the Position to Hear God's Word: A Self-less Act!

- Preaching penetrates the heart and transforms lives
- Preaching calls sinners to repentance (*rebuke can be good*)
- Preaching encourages children of God when we are down

“stir up in our pure minds by way of remembrance...”

2Peter 3:1

- Since we are the bride of Christ, (Ephesians 5:23;25-27) we need to be in a community of real people to experience the hope and help that Christ offers His wife (Don't be like Thomas the apostle who missed Jesus' presence because he wasn't with them when Jesus appeared to them. John 20:24)

*There is Nothing Like Watching, Experiencing, Jesus Christ
Change Your Life, And Others You Have Influenced
Because Of Him!*



We Live in a Different Society Now!

- People are more accustomed to getting information through entertainment
- More and more religious groups are replacing preaching with skits, drama, videos, and dance presentations
- Even though our culture craves and begs for entertainment, God never asked his ministers to “*entertain the troops!*”
- Preachers are charged with “*being radical to society!*”
2Timothy 4:1-5
- I refer to the unwilling, not the unable (zone ministries)



Why We Meet With “The Called Out!”

#2 To Participate in Corporate Worship

- ▶ We worship God individually by our lives every day, but it doesn't replace the beauty of coming together with others who are like-minded in spirit and purpose
- ▶ *“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalms 122:1*

“God is a Spirit, and his worshippers must worship him in the spirit and in truth.” John 4:24



Observations



- All too often, people believe that worship is rooted in a “feeling” that we have been with God
- And what happens is that people will flock to the churches they believe will generate that “feeling” of having worshipped
- The problem with this is: when the church doesn’t continue to generate the environment for the “*feelings we crave,*” no matter their doctrine, we might change churches or stop worshipping altogether. “*I don’t get what I came for!*”



Worshipping God Is Participatory For Everyone!


When We Worship, We Entertain God,
Not Ourselves!

- ▶ With our soul searching (meditation)
- ▶ With our songs of praise and thanksgiving (*whole audience participation*)
- ▶ With Our Gifts (contribution)
- ▶ We entertain God the way He has always liked (in spirit and in truth, John 4:24) not with what we want Him to Have



Worshipping in Spirit and In Truth

- In the spirit of thanksgiving and praise
- Psalms 100 (*Make a joyful noise all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness...*)
- 1 Corinthians 14:40, *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”*



God Already Is An Active Participant In Your Life

- ▶ That His Son died for you ought to underscore the significance of your life's decision making
- ▶ You will spend eternity somewhere when you die
- ▶ God would rather you spend it with Him
- ▶ He paid for your salvation with His Son's blood

That Is A Great Definition Of Love!

John 3:16



The Plan Of Salvation

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Hear the Gospel | Acts 15:7 |
| Believe the Gospel | Acts 15:7 |
| Repent Of Sins | Acts 17:30 |
| Confess Christ | Acts 8:37 |
| Be Baptized | Acts 8:38 |