

“The Assembling of Ourselves Together”
Hebrews 10:22-31, (v. 25)

Introduction: If something has been wrought by Christ’s sacrifice (the complete banishment of sin), and if something has been sought by Christ’s sacrifice (replacing of the shadows with the reality of the substance), then something is taught by Christ’s sacrifice as well. There are three great themes in this closing section of Hebrews. There is a tremendous word of welcome, there is a terrible word of warning, and there is a timely word of wisdom.

1. The Consecration of the Saints v. 22- “*Let us draw near...*” (What are we to draw near to? The holiest found in v. 19. Keep in mind we must prepare ourselves to enter into His presence. Fellowship with God demands purity.)
 - a. v. 22- “*...with a true heart...*”
 - b. v. 22- “*...in full assurance of faith...*”
 - c. v. 22- “*...having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...*”
 - d. v. 22- “*...and our bodies washed with pure water.*” (The brazen laver)
2. The Consistency of the Saints v. 23- “*Let us hold fast...*”
 - a. Our Profession v. 23- “*...the profession of our faith...*”
 - b. Our Perpetuity v. 23- “*...without wavering...*”
 - c. Our Promise v. 23- “*...(for he is faithful that promised;)*”
3. The Consideration of the Saints v. 24- “*...let us consider one another...*”
 - a. By Our Provocation v. 24- “*...to provoke unto love and to good works*”
 - b. By Our Presence v. 25- “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...*”

Body: The three “Let us” phrases hinges on our ability to enter into the holy place of God. Therefore, these three phrases are given to believers to assist them in entering into God’s presence. What an awesome privilege! The way to God is now open! No Old Testament saint ever had this opportunity. Only the high priest once a year could do this. However, because of the blood, we can come into His presence with other believers as well. Therefore, we are not to forsake this assembling with other children of God. Let us notice:

- I. The Priority of Our Assembling v. 25- “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...*”
 - A. We are to gather together with the believers on the earth before we gather together with them in the air.
 - B. We are not to forsake the assembly of God. Hebrews 3:12
 - C. Not even for a short time. Matthew 27:46
 - D. Was God going to leave Jesus forever? It was for a short while. No believer plans on leaving the church forever, but just for a short while. The history of the church is littered with the debris of the lives of men who have made such shipwreck concerning the faith.
 - E. What about the example of Anna? Luke 2:36-37

- F. There have been times that I had diarrhea, fevers, poison ivy, and back problems and still came to church.
- G. How many Sundays have you known me to miss church?
- H. There have been times when we were out of time and barely got back, but we still came. (Ordination of Curt, Mississippi meeting, hurricane Katrina, wedding of Joshua, Abigail's sickness but she came on, etc.)
- I. But you say, "Preacher, you just don't understand." You are exactly right.
- J. Other preachers believe this as well. Paul Sisk revival flier.
- K. Your absence from church speaks volumes of your spiritual life.
 - 1. Says to Jesus—Your House is not important
 - 2. Pastor—Your sermons are a waste of my time
 - 3. Treasurer—There's going to be a deficit
 - 4. Visitor—This Church is not worth Joining
 - 5. Member—Why don't you stay home next Sunday
 - 6. Lost—It's a waste of your time
 - 7. Neighbor—It's not necessary
 - 8. Nation—Close the churches down
 - 9. Heathen—We don't care if you go to hell
 - 10. Missionary—Why don't you come home
 - 11. Sunday School Teacher—Why did you bother studying
 - 12. Choir Leader—Why did you practice
 - 13. Children—Take it or leave it
 - 14. Hell—Fill it up!
 - 15. Martyrs—You died a fool
 - 16. Young People—It's just for kids and old folk
 - 17. Satan—Your business is more important
 - 18. Dying World—I don't care

II. The Problem with Our Assembling v. 25- *"...forsaking...as the manner of some is..."*

- A. Despising the Scriptures v. 28- *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses"* Deuteronomy 17:2-7
 - 1. Believers can Drift from the Word of God Hebrews 2:1
 - 2. Believers can Doubt the Word of God Hebrews 4:2
 - 3. Believers can become Dull toward the Word of God Hebrews 5:11
 - 4. Believers can Despise the Word of God Hebrews 10:28
 - 5. The evidence of despising the Word of God is willful sin. Hebrews 10:26
- B. Despising the Son v. 29- *"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God..."*
- C. Despising the Salvation v. 29- *"...and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing..."*
 - 1. How does an arrogant attitude affect a believer's relationship with God?
 - 2. It is as though he tramples Jesus Christ underfoot, cheapens the precious blood that saved him.
 - 3. Counting the blood as an unholy thing is basically calling it a common thing.

4. Jesus purchased the church that is being forsaken with His own blood.
 5. Acts 20:28- *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*
- D. Despising the Spirit v. 29- *“...and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”*
- III. The Priority for Our Assembling v. 25- *“...but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*
- A. Our Exhortation- *“...but exhorting one another...”*
1. The emphasis here is not on what a believer gets from the assembly, but rather on what he can contribute to the assembly.
 2. Faithfulness in church attendance encourages others to be faithful. Unfaithfulness in attendance discourages others when they see few in attendance. Remember Hebrews 10:24
- B. Our Excess- *“...and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*
- IV. The Presumptuousness of Our Not Assembling v. 26- *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins”*
- A. The Willful Sin- *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth...”*
1. What is the sin that Paul was writing about? It was a sin that involved a full knowledge of the truth. It was forsaking the assembly.
 2. A multitude of sacrifices could not save a person in the Old Testament that sinned presumptuously or willfully. Deuteronomy 17:12-13
 3. Psalm 19:13- *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”*
 4. Presumptuous (Webster’s)- “irreverent with respect to sacred things. Willful; done with bold design”
 5. It is possible to provoke God through our willful sins. Hebrews 3:15-19
- B. The Withdrawn Sacrifice- *“...there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins”*
1. Numbers 15:27-31
 2. Since there is no sacrifice for sins, then the only thing that remains is judgment as seen in the next verse.
 3. Hebrews 10:27- *“But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”*
 4. This thought leads us to our last point.
- V. The Punishment of Our Not Assembling
- A. The Faithfulness of God v. 30- *“For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.”* Deuteronomy 32:35-36, Hebrews 12:5-11
1. God will judge presumptuous sins. God does not always take the life of a rebellious believer, but He always deals with him.

2. Question: How does the Jesus that lives in me allow you to get by with things that He will not allow me to?
 3. I John 5:16- *“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.”*
 4. Hebrews 3:17, I Corinthians 10:6-11
 5. I Corinthians 11:30- *“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”*
 6. Acts 5:1-11
 7. If God does not judge you for presumptuous sins you will be the first.
- B. The Fear of God v. 31- *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

Conclusion: Our final exhortation in the text is to remember how it used to be (v. 32). Do you remember how sweet it was to be saved? Do you remember how you could not wait to pray or read your Bible? Do you remember how you could not wait to get to church? The remedy for forsaking the house of God is to remember, repent, and return.