

Forsake Not the Assembling of Ourselves

²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. - Hebrews 10:24-25

1) The Imperative of Gathering Together

“Not Forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some”- Hebrews 10:25^a

There are no clauses, no added conditions. It's not optional, it's essential!

The Greek word used here translated “assembling” or “gathering” is only used in one other place in the scriptures.

It is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 where it refers to the rapture of the Church. Both the gathering of believers at the rapture and the gathering of believers on earth are equally important to God. Why then, do some believers place such little value on our gathering together in the local church?

2) The Purpose of Gathering Together

To Promote Love:

“²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love” – Hebrews 10:24^a

The Greek word translated “stimulate” could more accurately translated “incite”, it is a strong word used to describe an active response. We are called to actively and intentionally stir believers to love.

The Greek word for love is “agape” which expresses the unconditional love of God, the same love we are called by Jesus to love one another with (John 13:34).

I Corinthians 13:4-8 expresses the character of this love.

To Provoke Good Works:

²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds – Hebrews 10:24

Works are the expression of love. When we love others, it manifests itself as actions.

When we gather together we demonstrate our love for God and His saints by works.

Some demonstrate works by giving generously and joyfully, some set up chairs, others are mighty prayer warriors. How you serve depends on: the needs of the church, the means of the individual and the gifts given by the Spirit to equip them for service.

We were not saved by works (Eph 2:8-9), we were saved for them (James 2:18).

To Provide Encouragement:

“but encouraging one another” - Hebrews 10:25^b

Encouraging believers is the equivalent to pouring kerosene on a fire. It causes their fire to burn bigger and brighter.

A word of encouragement can lift a believer in an otherwise challenging period of their life. You may never know the hidden pain someone is living with, when the Spirit prompts you to encourage someone don't delay. It may be just what they need at that particular moment.

3) The Incentive of Gathering

“and all the more as you see the day drawing near”. - Hebrews 10:25^b

Our faithfulness to gather should increase as we see our Lord's return on the horizon.

The phrase “as you see” is written in the Greek present tense, active voice, indicative mood. This means the believer should constantly be watching for the rapture as if it could occur at any moment.

The rapture is imminent, so, we should desire to be found faithful in all the things that matter to Jesus when that moment does occur.

After the rapture of the Church we will all gather around the Judgement seat (bema seat) of Christ, where Jesus will hand out crowns of rewards to faithful saints. (2 Cor 5:10). Knowing Jesus will judge saints based on their faithfulness to Him, gives us the greatest incentive to faithfully gathering together.

Summary

The Church is not a building, it is not even the people in the building. It is the presence of a Holy God in a fallen world. It is an invisible hope dressed in the skin of all the people that have found that hope. Be a beacon of hope for the hopeless, be the light that leads others out of the darkness.