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Why Do We Assemble Together?

HEBREWS 10:23-25

Introduction

1. There is an expression that many, if not all of us, use.
 - a. It is an expression which speaks about our gathering together as a body of Christians.
 - b. Perhaps you used it this morning.
 - 1) "I am going (getting ready to go) to church."
 - 2) "Are you going to church?"
 - 3) "Did you go to church?"
2. This expression — "go to church" — is one that is widely used and universally understood.
3. It is an idiomatic expression which implies that the church is a building.
4. In reality, the church is those people who have yielded themselves to Christ in obedient faith.
5. Includes those saved individuals whom the Lord has added to His family.
6. I hope that we all understand that we use this expression, "go to church," as a briefer way of saying, "go to the assembly of the church."
7. In our reading this morning, the author of the letter to the Hebrew Christians referred to it as "our own assembling together" (*Hebrews 10:25*).
7. With that being said, I have a question for you this morning — "Why do we go to church," why do we "assemble together?"
 - a. Why do you who are in the twilight of your lives with your various physical difficulties make the effort to come every time these doors are opened?
 - b. Why do you young parents with small children come and participate in

- worship, knowing that you may not hear all that is said due to a wiggling child?
- c. Why do you mothers or fathers struggle to get your children ready and come, knowing that your spouse does not support you in your efforts?
 - d. Why do so many of you sacrifice sleep, rest, time and energy each week in order to attend Bible study and worship?
8. When we look at God's Word, we find many reasons for "our own assembling together."
 9. This morning it is my goal to share some of those reasons with you.
 10. This is important because, as you can see in our reading we are encouraged ...
 - a. Not to forsake "our own assembling together, as is the habit of some"
 - b. But, to encourage one another "all the more as [we] see the day drawing near" (*Hebrews 10:25*).
 10. When we have finished, I hope that you will have a greater appreciation for what you do each and every week along with a greater desire to continue.

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We Assemble Together To . . .

A. GLORIFY GOD

1. In his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, the apostle Paul said that it should be our goal to glorify God in all that we say or do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31, NASB95)

2. This is especially true when we assemble together.
3. In Psalm 29, God's servant David wrote,

"Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of the mighty,

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength,
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in holy array”

(Psalm 29:1-2, NASB95)

4. This is similar to something which we often sing,

**We will glorify the King of kings
We will glorify the Lamb
We will glorify the Lord of lords
Who is the great I AM**

5. Listen to these words with which the apostle Paul concluded a prayer for the Christians in Ephesus, “to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:21, NASB95).
6. Though Paul does not limit this to our own assembling together, giving God glory “in the church” certainly includes what we do when we gather together.

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[Another reason we assemble together is so that we may . . .]

B. REMEMBER AND PROCLAIM OUR SALVATION

1. Every Sunday, every Lord’s Day, we assemble together to remember and declare God’s saving activity through Jesus Christ.
2. One specific way we do this is through our partaking of “the Lord’s Supper,” something we did just a few minutes ago.
3. Twice, in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote on this aspect of our worship.
4. The first is found in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, where Paul wrote:

“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.” (1 Corinthians 10:14–17, NASB95)

- a. When you and I partake of the fruit of the vine, we are sharing together in the blood of Christ.
- b. When we break the bread, we are likewise sharing in the body of Christ.
- c. Just as there is one bread, we are all, in that moment, reminded that we are one body — the body of Christ.

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5. The second time Paul addresses this is one chapter later in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, where he writes,

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, NASB95)

6. Each time we eat this bread and drink this cup together we . . .
 - a. Reflect upon His sacrificial death for our sins.
 - b. Remember the covenant which we have entered into with Him.
 - c. Focus upon His return in glory to take us home.

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[It is also in our assembling together that we find

C. FIND STRENGTH

1. You and I live in a very complicated world — one in which we often find ourselves struggling to live righteous lives.
2. We struggle with . . .
 - a. Sins which continue to ensnare us

- b. Worry about things over which we little, if any, control
 - c. Growing older and the limitations which accompany this part of our lives
 - d. Serious illnesses which force us to make major changes in our lives
 - e. Times of bereavement and loss
 - f. Times when we fail and disappoint ourselves and others.
3. It is in these times that we need the spiritual strength which comes from our own assembling together to worship God and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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4. Have you ever noticed how a reading from God's Word in the assembly meets a specific need you may have? (Psalm 23; 27:1, 13-14)

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?” (Psalm 27:1, NASB95)

“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.” (Psalm 27:13–14, NASB95)

5. Remember, Jesus promised that when we are gathered together in His name, He would be present in our midst.
6. When you find yourself weak and discouraged, when you face decisions you are sure you can make, let me encourage you to seek God's presence among His people:
- a. Pray to Him and sing His praises with us.
 - b. Listen to His Word as it is read and proclaimed.
 - c. Be encouraged by your brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - d. Receive the strength which only He can provide as we pray with you and for you.

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D. RECEIVE INSTRUCTION

1. It is easier for this to take place when we are all assembled together as one body.
2. In his letter to the brethren in Thessalonica, the apostle Paul wrote,

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.” (1 Thessalonians 4:1, NASB95)
3. Our world today is one in which we are constantly bombarded with conflicting messages through the major news media outlets, social media and a number of other sources.
4. The prophet Jeremiah once wrote,
 - a. “I know, O Lord, that a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps,” (Jeremiah 10:23, NASB95)
 - b. “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9, NASB95)
5. In Colossians 3:16, Paul wrote, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16, NASB95)
 - a. Reaching the point where the “word of Christ” richly dwells within us does not happen in an hour of worship, a month or a year.
 - b. It is done in a lifetime, little by little, until we have internalized God’s way to live and it becomes second nature to us.

Slide 8**E. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN RIGHT LIVING**

1. Most of us *know* what is right, but we do not always *do* what is right.
2. How often have we learned something only to have it slip away.
3. When that happens we find ourselves either

- a. Doing something which God has told us not to do.
- b. Not doing something which God has commanded us to do.
4. You and I “go to church,” we “assemble together” so that we can be reminded, exhorted and sometimes admonished in right living.
5. It is when we gather and sing those great hymns of faith that we are reminded as to how we should live:

**Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,
Trying to follow our Savior and King;
Shaping our lives by His blessed example,
Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.**

Refrain

**How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior,
Stepping in the light, stepping in the light,
How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior,
Led in paths of light.**

(Eliza E. Hewitt, 1890)

6. It is when we hear someone standing before us and expounded that we are exhorted and sometimes admonished to walk in those paths of righteousness along which God would lead us.

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F. ENJOY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

1. Have you ever sat in front of a fire place or around a campfire?
 - a. In the midst of that fire the embers continue to burn brightly.
 - b. However, if you drag one away from the fire, its glow will eventually fade away.
2. In the same way, you and I as Christians need to gather, as often as possible, with our brothers and sisters in Christ in order to keep our own spiritual fire burning.
3. In the book of Acts, Luke typically used two statements to describe the fellowship of the early Christians — they were often “together” or “of one accord.”

4. Another of our hymns expresses it so well: **“Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”**
5. One of the most inspiring things you will see in this building is that of an entire family worshiping together — father and mother leading the way with children following.
 - a. When worship is meaningful to those of you who are parents, your children will notice and it will become meaningful to them.
 - b. When worship is a regular occurrence and families are drawn together, the generation gap is all but erased.

Conclusion

1. This morning we have looked at several reasons as to why “we go to church,” why we “assemble ourselves together.”
2. But the real question is “why do you go to church?” What is the reason for your coming here today, or any other day for that matter?
3. Have you come here . . .
 - a. To glorify God?
 - b. To remember and proclaim your salvation?
 - c. To find strength and receive instruction in Godly living?
 - d. To be encouraged in your Christian walk?
 - e. To be lifted up by the fellowship?
4. If so, then my God grant you success.
5. If you are a person seeking to become one of those whom God’s calls His own, let me encourage you to . . .
 - a. Believe with all your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord and confess it.
 - b. Wash away your sins so that you may become a Christian.