

**Worship of the Church – Attendance**  
**Heb. 10:19-25**

*Thesis: To show the importance of being more faithful in our attendance of the assembly.*

**Introduction:**

- A. Why is it so important that we come together to worship God?
  - 1. What is the purpose of meeting with other Christians?
  - 2. What profit can we gain from coming together throughout the week?
  
- B. There are several arguments against attending worship services on a regular basis.
  - 1. Some say that they can be close to God in a deer stand on Sunday morning.
    - a. At best, this is faulty logic.
    - b. At worst, this logic will lead someone to hell.
  - 2. Some say that they can be faithful to God without being active in His church.
    - a. It is impossible for someone to be faithful to God without being faithful to the church that He died to purchase.
    - b. Because the church belongs to Him, and it was purchased with a valuable price, we must be faithful to it.
  - 3. Some say that they are not encouraged enough by the services and that they get nothing out of it.
    - a. We need to remember that the object of our worship is God, not us.
    - b. When we worship properly, we will be encouraged; however, this is not the purpose of our worship.
    - c. Also, if we get nothing out of our worship, it is most likely because we did not put anything into our worship.
  
- C. It is understood that there are those who will not like this lesson or the topic of it.
  - 1. This lesson is not:
    - a. a “holier than thou” sermon
    - b. meant to embarrass anyone
    - c. meant to hurt anyone’s feelings
  - 2. This lesson is:
    - a. designed to encourage each of us to be faithful to God
    - b. preached in love because of the eternal consequences of it
  
- D. Note: the assembly of Christians is the meeting of the church on the Lord’s Day and during the week.

- I. It is in the assembly of Christians that we draw near to God (10:19-22).
  - A. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can draw near to God (10:19-21).
    1. The writer gives a very graphic account of the crucifixion of Jesus; all of which are seen in the accounts of the gospel.
      - a. We have “boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus” (10:19).
        - 1) Until Christ, the Most Holy Place was only entered once each year.
          - a) It was only the High Priest that could enter the Holy Place.
          - b) Heb. 9:12b (Christ entered the Most Holy Place by way of His blood) - It was “with His own blood [that] He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
        - 2) It was His blood that was shed on the cross.
          - a) As Jesus was scourged, His back was ripped to shreds and His blood would pour out of it.
          - b) His blood was shed when the crown of thorns were beaten into His head.
          - c) His blood was shed as they drove the nails into His hands.
          - d) Jn. 19:34 - But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
        - 3) It is through this blood that was shed that we can have “boldness to enter the Holiest.”
      - b. It is “a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh” (10:20).
        - 1) Christ died to establish a new covenant with us.
          - a) Mt. 26:28 - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
          - b) By this death, He was removing the old and establishing the new.
        - 2) When Christ died, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; which was an indication that we can now have access to the Father (Mt. 27:51).
        - 3) In this instance, the writer is using Jesus as the veil through which we are consecrated.
      - c. Christ is the “High Priest over the house of God” (10:21).
        - 1) Heb. 10:1-4 esp. 4 (the animal sacrifices were not perfect and could not take away the sin of the people) - {4} For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.
        - 2) Heb. 4:14-15 (the comparison is used to describe Christ as our High Priest that takes away our sin) - Seeing then that 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 was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. It is only through the sacrifice of Jesus that we can have the opportunity to draw near to God.

**B. In order to draw near to God, we must draw near to His church (10:21-22).**

1. Notice that Jesus is the “High Priest over the house of God” (10:21).
  - a. **I Tim. 3:15** (Paul tells Timothy that the house of God is the church of God) - but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
  - b. It is the church that Jesus died to purchase.
    - 1) **Acts 20:28** - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
    - 2) **Eph. 1:14** - The Holy Spirit “is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.”
2. It is in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that we can “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (10:22).
  - a. We can have the confidence that God is going to be there for us.
  - b. **Heb. 7:18-19** - For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, { 19 } for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.
  - c. **Js. 4:8a** - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

**II. It is in the assembly of Christians that we “hold fast the confession of our hope” (10:23, 25).**

**A. It is in the assembly of the church that we are encouraged to remain strong in our hope.**

1. To “hold fast” is to remain faithful to God.
2. We “hold fast” to the hope of eternal life; and we can have great confidence in it.
  - a. **Heb. 6:11-12** - And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, { 12 } that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
  - b. **Heb. 7:18-19** - For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, { 19 } for the law made nothing perfect; on the

other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

- c. **Heb. 11:1** (this hope is tied directly to our faith) - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
3. The point that the Hebrew writer is making is that this hope is found only in the church.
    - a. We have this hope because Jesus is the “High Priest over the house of God” (**10:21**).
    - b. There is no other place where we can find those who are saved.
    - c. **Acts 2:47b** - And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

#### **B. The hope that we have comes only from the faithfulness of God.**

1. We know that God will always be faithful to His word.
  - a. **Heb. 6:17-20** - Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, {18} that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. {19} This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, {20} where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
  - b. The point is that because God is faithful to His word, we know that we have the hope of eternal life.
2. God gives us this hope through the sacrifice of Jesus.
  - a. This is what the writer has previously said (**10:19-21**).
  - b. **Rom. 5:5-6** - Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. {6} For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
  - c. It is because of Christ and the sacrifice that He made that we can “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering” (**10:23**).

#### **III. It is in the assembly of Christians that we “consider one another” (10:24-25).**

##### **A. In the assembly, we can stir up love in one another (10:24).**

1. When we are together, we are encouraged to have a deeper love for one another.
2. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to love one another.
  - a. **Heb. 6:10** - For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
  - b. **Heb. 13:1** - Let brotherly love continue.
3. Throughout the New Testament, we are commanded to love one another.

- a. **I Jn. 3:10-14** - In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. {11} For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, {12} not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. {13} Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. {14} We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.
- b. **I Jn. 3:16-18** - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

**B. In the assembly, we can stir up good works in one another (10:24).**

1. Again, when we are around other Christians, we are encouraged to do good towards others.
2. To some degree, our salvation is going to be based upon the good things that we do to others (**Mt. 25:31-46**).
  - a. In this passage, Jesus depicts the judgment scene and separates those who did good from those that did not do good.
  - b. Those that did good are going to receive eternal life.
  - c. Those that did not do good are going to receive eternal punishment.
  - d. This does not mean that we can “earn” salvation; but we must do what God tells us to do in His word.
3. Part of the work of the church is to encourage one another.

**Conclusion:**

- A. All of this is summed up in **Heb. 10:25**.
  1. **Heb. 10:25** (NIV) - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
  2. Some were forsaking the church and thereby not gaining this encouragement that they needed.
  3. They were encouraged to exhort one another, especially as the day of the Lord (His return) grows closer.
- B. It is interesting to note that as the writer talks about the assembly, he also talks about sinning willfully (**10:26-27**).
  1. At least to some degree, the two appear to be connected.
  2. If one refuses to be faithful to the church of our Lord, then he cannot be faithful to the Lord Himself.
- C. Going to church ought to be the easiest thing that a Christian does; it is simply a matter of the heart.