

## Not Forsaking the Assembly Heb. 10:24-25

*Thesis: To understand that it is a sin to forsake the assembly of the Lord's church.*

### Introduction:

- I. It is a sin to forsake the assembling together of Christians (10:25).
  - A. The writer of the book of Hebrews condemns those who forsake the assembly of Christians.
    1. The early church apparently had a problem with some forsaking the assembly.
      - a. There were some of them who did not think it was important to be there.
      - b. Today, we are faced with the same problem.
      - c. As Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecc. 1:9).
    2. We must understand that it is impossible to be faithful to God and not be faithful to His church.
      - a. Eph. 5:22-33 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. {23} For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. {24} Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. {25} Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, {26} that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, {27} that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. {28} So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. {29} For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. {30} For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. {31} "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." {32} This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
      - b. Because the church belongs to Christ and He died for it, we must be faithful to her.
      - c. It is like a husband who marries a wife and then is not faithful in their relationship; such a situation cannot work.
  - B. The church was bought with a great price.
    1. The church was bought with the blood of Christ.

2. **Mt. 26:28** - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
3. **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.
4. **I Pet. 1:17-19** - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; { 18 } knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, { 19 } but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
5. **Eph. 1:7** - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
6. **Eph. 2:13** - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
7. **Col. 1:20** - and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.
8. The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of the power of the blood of Jesus.
  - a. **Heb. 9:11-15** - But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. { 12 } Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. { 13 } For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, { 14 } how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? { 15 } And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
  - b. **Heb. 9:22** - And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
  - c. **Heb. 10:19** - Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

II. Several excuses are sometimes offered by those who forsake the assembly on a regular basis.

A. Notice the excuses that are made for a lack of attendance.

1. Sickness
  - a. From time to time, we will all be sick.
  - b. However, when we are sick on Sunday and fine throughout the rest of the week, we are simply making an excuse as to why we are not attending the services of the church.
2. Work
  - a. We all have jobs and sometimes those jobs take us away during a service of the church.
  - b. However, we should not volunteer to work during the times that the church will meet.
  - c. Also, we must decide which is more important: work or God.
  - d. While we have to work, we do not have to work at a job that requires us to regularly miss the services of the church.
3. Family (husband, wife, parents)
  - a. Everyone has members of their family that are not members of the body of Christ.
  - b. We cannot use them as an excuse for not attending the services of the church.
  - c. We should be an example to them in our faithfulness to the church.
4. Visitors at Home
5. Too tired
6. Television
7. Family time
8. Hypocrites at church
9. ***All such excuses must be stopped!***

B. The truth of the matter is that those who do not attend the services of our Lord on a regular basis have a problem with their heart.

1. Sometimes we forget about the commitment that we have made to Christ.
  - a. This is a serious, life-long commitment.
  - b. **Lk. 9:23-26** - Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. {24} For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. {25} For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? {26} For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”
2. If you do not plan on being here tonight or Wednesday night, and your health permits you to be here, then one thing is clear: your heart is not right in the sight of God.

- a. If you do not look forward to being in church each time the doors are open, you will not be in heaven.
- b. You cannot draw near to God with a true heart and “hold fast the confession of [your] hope” if you forsake the assembly of our Lord (Heb. 10:22-23).

III. If we violate the command of God to assemble with the saints, then bad things will happen for eternity.

A. Immediately after speaking about forsaking the assembly, the writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of the punishment for willfully sinning against God.

1. Heb. 10:26-31 - For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
2. It is important to note that this passage comes right after the condemnation of those who would forsake the assembly of the church.
3. Notice: the word “for” refers to what has just been said.

B. To forsake the assembly of the church is a sin that is punishable by an eternity in hell.

Conclusion: