

WHY AM I HERE

Heb 10:23-29 (1Cor 11:17-22)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This lesson is not designed as an indictment but simply a review
- B. Every service in most congregations some members are absent, for one reason or another; some possibly without a reason at all
- C. Attendance at the assemblies is an indication of spiritual health – deliberate forsaking is a symptom of heart trouble
 - 1. Real love for the Lord says Psa 122:1
 - 2. Some seem to want a "Brylcream Religion" ("a little dab will do you")
- D. Failure to assemble has become one of those "common" and "respectable" (???) sins
- E. Let's look at six reasons why I am here

DISCUSSION:

I. THE LORD EXPECTS ME TO ASSEMBLE Heb 10:25

- A. It was general practice of the first Christians Acts 2:42
- B. They met for the purpose of breaking bread Acts 20:7; And teaching Acts 11:26 see also Phil 4:9
- C. Someone says: "assembling is not everything" true but failure in this results in failure in other things as well

II. TO BE WITH THE LORD Matt 18:20

- A. Suppose some important person or famous celebrity was going to be present at our assemblies
 - 1. Some would not attend because they have no respect for them or do not care for the person
 - 2. However, those who respect and care for that person would make every effort to be present
- B. Jesus, the Son of God is here and is far more important and commands far more respect than any person
- C. If we refuse his company here on earth, how can we expect him to invite us to be where He is Jhn 14:1-3

III. TO RECEIVE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS Eph 1:3

- A. Receive blessings impossible to receive anywhere else
 - 1. It increases our faith Rom 10:17
 - 2. Encourages our hearts Acts 11:23 (exhorted = encourage)
 - 3. It helps us to be humble in spirit and holy in living
- B. Makes us forget our fleshly nature and be lifted to a higher standard of living
- C. If you don't receive blessings from the assembly, then you might need to do some checking up on yourself to see if the fault is with you

IV. TO MEET THE BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH Rom 15:24; 1Cor 15:33

- A. There may be some bad in, and some good out, but they are that way in spite of the church and not because of it
- B. Most people who are immoral, dishonest, and profligate get nothing out of a fervent prayer, a spiritual song, or an inspiring sermon. It only adds to their misery and for the most part this kind of person will not attend the assembly
- C. Where else can you consistently find good people striving to do the will of God?

V. TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE Matt 5:13-16

- A. Does your wife or husband say "I would go to church if my husband or wife would."
- B. What about your children, what are they learning from the way you attend the assemblies?
 - 1. I know they will be better by attending Bible class and hearing the Word of God discussed
 - 2. Parents who stay home are teaching their children that it is not important to worship God and faithfully serve him
 - 3. Would you say to your spouse or children, "I don't care if you go to hell?" (our actions speak louder than our words.)
- C. What about friends and neighbors? You will never lead one astray because you are faithful in attending the assemblies

VI. BECAUSE OF WHAT I CAN GIVE 2Cor 8:5

- A. It's true, we get a lot for ourselves by attending the assemblies
- B. "More blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35
 - 1. We receive blessing by giving of our means 1Cor 16:1,2 Mal 3:8 (this enables others to hear)
 - 2. We offer up spiritual sacrifices 1Pet 2:5
- C. We give encouragement to Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Preacher and other members
- D. We exhort, edify and comfort one another Heb 10:24,25; 1Thess 5:11

CONCLUSION:

- A. If we are to grow and do the work we should, we must first of all be faithful in assembling ourselves together
- B. These six reasons should convince us that God expects us to assemble together, and if we can't be faithful in this how can we expect to be successful in winning others.
- C. Have you been neglectful in attending the assembly or in any way fallen down in your responsibility to God.