

The Purpose Of Our Assembling

HEBREWS 10:19-25

Exhortations To Steadfastness

Warning not to drift away. Hebrews 2:1
 Promise of becoming partakers of Christ. Hebrews 3:14
 Exhortations to be diligent. Hebrews 4:11; 6:11-12
 God is faithful. Hebrews 10:23
 Promise of reward. Hebrews 10:35-36
 Final exhortations to encourage steadfastness.
 Hebrews 13:7-17
 Especially note. Hebrews 13:9 – Danger of “*divers and strange teachings*”
Don’t neglect attendance. Hebrews 10:24-25

Established Pattern

Acts 1:3-4, “*To whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God: and, **being assembled together with them**, he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, (said he,) ye heard from me.*”

Acts 2:44-45, “*And all that believed **were together**, and had all things common; and they sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all, according as any man had need.*”

3

Established Pattern

Acts 10:24-27, “*And on the morrow they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius was waiting for them, **having called together his kinsmen and his near friends**. And when it came to pass that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter raised him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. And as he talked with him, he went in, and **findeth many come together**”*

Acts 11:25-26, “*And he (Barnabas) went forth to Tarsus to seek for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that even for a whole year **they were gathered together with the church**, and taught much people, and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*”

4

Established Pattern

Acts 12:12, “*And when he had considered (the thing), he came to the house of Mary the mother of John whose surname was Mark; where **many were gathered together** and were praying.*”

Acts 15:30, “*So they, when they were dismissed, came down to Antioch; and **having gathered the multitude together**, they delivered the epistle.*”

Acts 20:7-8, “*And upon the first day of the week, when we were **gathered together** to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow; and prolonged his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber where we were gathered together.*”

5

Established Pattern

Acts 28:13-15, “*And from thence we made a circuit, and arrived at Rhegium: and after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli; where we found brethren, and were entreated to tarry with them seven days: and so we came to Rome. And from thence the brethren, when they heard of us, came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns; whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.*”

6

Established Pattern

1 Corinthians 11:17-34 – The saints in Corinth came together for their worship in observing the Lord's Supper; ***“that ye come together”*** (verse 17); ***“when ye come together in the church”*** [church assembled – cf. 1 Corinthians 14:23, mg] (verse 18); ***“When therefore ye assemble yourselves together”*** [in one place, KJV, NKJV] (verse 20); ***“that your coming together”*** (verse 34).

Small group meetings do not constitute the church assembled!

7

John Tells Us Why!

2 John 12, *“Having many things to write unto you, I would not (write them) with paper and ink: but I hope to come unto you, and to speak face to face, **that your joy may be made full.**”*

3 John 13-14, *“I had many things to write unto thee, but I am unwilling to write (them) to thee with ink and pen: but I hope shortly to see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace (be) unto thee. The friends salute thee. Salute the friends by name.”*

Purpose For Assembling

Together To Worship. Acts 20:6-7 – First day of the week

- Worshiping God with their brethren was important. 20:6
- Planned for and anticipated. Hebrews 10:24-25 (Psalms 122:1; 42:4)
- Break bread. 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
- To edify. 1 Corinthians 14:26
- Encouragement, joy, and gladness

Purpose For Assembling

Together to teach the gospel. Acts 20:7

- Daily attention. Acts 2:46; 5:41-42; 19:9

Purpose For Assembling

Together to Read God's Word.
Nehemiah 8:1-8

- All the law to Israel. Joshua 8:34-35
- Book of the law lost. 2 Kings 22:8ff
- Would be a famine of God's word. Amos 8:11

Purpose For Assembling

Together to Settle A Controversy. Acts 15

- Must be heresies. 1 Corinthians 11:19
- False Teachers will come. 2 Peter 2:1ff; 1 John 4:1
- Warnings against drifting. Hebrews 2:1-3; Acts 20:29-30
- Hebrews 3:12-13 – Consider context:
 - Spies sent in to spy out the land. Ten said, “We can't do this!”
 - Joshua and Caleb said, “Let's go!” cf. Numbers 13-14
 - Warning to the Hebrews ...
 - Hebrews 4:1 – Not just fear if YOU don't enter, but **“ANY ONE OF YOU”**
 - Hebrews 4:11, *“Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, THAT NO man fall after the same example of disobedience.”*

Purpose For Assembling

Together To Pray. Acts 12:5, 12

- Opportunity to learn how to pray. Luke 11:1
- We should pray to praise God. cf. Matthew 6:9ff
- For others. Luke 22:31-32; 23:34; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Colossians 4:2-3; Ephesians 6:18ff
- Ourselves. Matthew 6:9ff

Purpose For Assembling

Together for Gospel Meetings Acts 10:23-33

- Opportunity to "hear all the things commanded thee of the Lord." Acts 10:33
- Church to be pillar and ground of truth. 1 Timothy 3:15
- Promotes instruction. Acts 11:26
- Spiritual protection. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Philippians 1:9-10
- Answers for our hope. 1 Peter 3:15
- Ways of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Convince, convict, and convert the lost. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Conclusion:

To be a Christian is to be a part of a family. "It is a together thing."

- We want to do everything we can to ensure spiritual strength.
- We are not "better" when we are apart. (Ephesians 6:18-20)
- It's nice to FaceTime with family, talk on the phone, have time on the computer, but that is not enough!
 - We want to be together! Hebrews 13:18-19, "Pray for us: for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live honorably in all things. And I exhort (you) the more exceedingly to do this, **that I may be restored to you the sooner.**"

Conclusion:

We are the family of God!

- **Shouldn't we WANT to see each other face to face?**
 - cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:17; 3:6,10; cf. Romans 1:10, 13; 15:23, 29, 32; 2 John 12
- **Shouldn't we WANT to see God face to face?**
 - "**Though you do not now see him**, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9).
 - "And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him; **and they shall see his face;** and his name (shall be) on their foreheads" (Revelation 22:3-4).