

NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY

Hebrews 10:25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The church is an assembly of people
- 1) It is never universal
 - 2) It is always visible
- B. If people do not assemble, there is no church
- 1) There is no temple of God
 - 2) There is no dwelling place for His Spirit
 - 3) There is no institutional witness *I Cor 14:23-25*
 - 4) There is no pillar and ground of truth
 - 5) There is no glorifying institution
- C. Paul places his exhortations in such a manner as to insure the gathering of the Lord's church.
- 1) *"Let us draw near to God..."* Here we will see ourselves, see others, see what is important.
 - 2) *"Let us hold fast the profession of our hope"*
 - 3) *"Let us consider one another..."*
 - 4) Let us provoke (excite) another...
 - 5) *"unto love and to good works"*
- I. Paul's Plea To Not Abandon The Church
- A. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."*
- 1) *"Not forsaking"* = ουτε = "not even" εγκαταλειπω = "to leave behind in any place", "to abandon", "to desert"
 - 2) *"assembling"* = επισυναγωγή = "a gathering together to a place or person"
 - 3) *"Not staying away from our meetings"* NEB
- B. *"...as the manner of some is..."*
- 1) *"manner"* = εθος = "a custom", "usage"
 - 2) *"According to the custom of some"* RHM

C. "...but exhorting one another..."

- 1) "exhorting" = παρακαλεω = "to call to one", "every kind of speaking which is intended to encourage"
- 2) "...but giving mutual encouragement" BER

III. The Urgency of Exhortation

A. "...and so much the more..."

- 1) "and this the more earnestly..."
- 2) "and all the more,"

B. "...as ye see the day approaching."

- 1) "day" = ημερα = "from one sunset to another"
- 2) This refers to the day of the week when these Christians gathered to worship.
- 3) "approaching" = εγγιζω = "to bring near", "to draw nigh", "to be at hand"

III. Some Thoughts On Sunday

A. It is the day we have chosen to assemble

- 1) It is the first day of the week
- 2) The Jew's worshiped (rested) on the seventh
- 3) It was probably changed to avoid the stigma of Judaism and to separate completely from the Jewish Sabbath.
- 4) It is of little consequence, from the Bible view, which day is set for the assembly.

B. We should give the day to the Lord

- 1) It should not be a one hour day
- 2) Not every hour given to worship
- 3) It is also a day of rest

C. The Jewish Sabbath

- 1) The predominant feature of the Sabbath is cessation from labor and business activities.
- 2) *"Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy"* Exodus 20:8
- 3) Exodus 20:9-10
- 4) Three meals were eaten, one Friday evening, one Saturday evening until the Sabbath ended.
- 5) It kept the Jews from being slaves Deut 5:12-15 (vs 15)

D. It should be a sanctified day

- 1) Set is apart for God
- 2) Do not profane it

E. Make it a day of rest

- 1) *"in it thou shalt do no work..."*
- 2) Women and preparation for visitors

F. Make it a day of anticipation

- 1) There is something special about it
- 2) Don't make it the worst day of the week

G. Make it a day of witness

- 1) They proved that they had a God Exodus 31:16-17
- 2) A powerful witness that we know God

Why do we not assemble? Why do we not worship? Is it because we must make a living? Why are we living if it is not to assemble and worship? If we are living only to work, and working only to live, is this not an endless path, a circuitous and painful repetition that never lets us go where we long to be?

Why did God change the Sabbath to the day of assembly? The Sabbath is to the Jew, in Israel he lived all of his life under the law. The Sabbath is provincial. The assembly will fit any time table. It will work well anywhere and everywhere and this is precisely where His church would be, anywhere and everywhere.

