

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 31

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The Need To Assemble Together

There are some who consider themselves to be a faithful child of God, but yet they neglect to regularly assemble (i.e. come together) with the saints. You see, it is very important for a member of the body of Christ to assemble together in one place (1 Corinthians 11:20) with those of like precious faith, and the inspired Hebrew writer emphasizes the importance of this when he penned, *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Now, with those inspired words in mind, let’s take a look at some reasons for why it is important to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Beginning with, it is important to regularly assemble together in order...

To Keep The Commandments of God.

First of all brethren, we must not neglect the assembling of ourselves together because we have specifically been given a commandment in the Scriptures to “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together” (Hebrews 10:25). So, when we fail to assemble together, we are simply disobeying what God has said to do.

To Enhance Spiritual Growth.

Another reason for why we must not neglect the assembling of ourselves together is so that we will not become spiritually malnourished

(Hebrews 5:12-14). You see, Christians are instructed to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). However, how can one effectively grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when one consistently neglects to assemble together with the saints to study and learn more about God?

To Express Love For One Another.

We must also not neglect the assembling of ourselves together, for when we fail to assemble together, we fail to take advantage of a way to express our love for one another. You see, God’s people are to love one another (John 13:34-35, 15:17), and Peter says, *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”* (1 Peter 1:22). Now, I ask, how can you express your love for the brethren when you fail to assemble together with the brethren?

To Encourage One Another.

Last, but certainly not least, we must not neglect the assembling of ourselves together because of the need to encourage one another. In Romans 1:12, Paul expressed his desire to visit the church at Rome, and one reason for this desire was as Paul said, *“...that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”* So, you see, even the apostle Paul desired to be in one place together with the brethren so that he and they both could be encouraged together. Therefore, let’s all regularly assemble together in order to effectively stir up one another for love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), let’s set the proper example for one another to follow, and let’s be an encouragement to one another by our presence, rather than a discouragement to others by our constant absence.

Brethren, the list of reasons for why it is important to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together could go on and on. However, I hope that we will all understand the need to assemble together, and that we will all strive to be one who does not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but rather we will all be one who takes advantage of every opportunity to come together with our local brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can effectively support the local work in which we are a part of!

✍ Brad Phillips

Why Will Only A Few Be Saved?

In Luke 13:23, Jesus was asked, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” Now, that’s a good question, and it’s a question that many still ask today. However, notice what Jesus said in response to that question, He said, “*Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able*” (Luke 13:24). You see, although God desires for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4), the fact of the matter is, only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:14). So, knowing that, let’s take a look at a few of the reasons for why only a few will be saved.

There Are Many Who Do Not Believe In God.

Unfortunately, there are many in the world today who do not believe in God, and they are lacking faith in the fact that God created the world and everything in it (Genesis 1:1-31; Acts 17:24). However, notice these inspired words of the Psalmist, “*The fool has said in his heart, There is no God*” (Psalm 14:1). You see, only a fool is one who does not believe in God, and because of that foolishness, the fool (i.e. the one who does not believe in God) will be one who fails to please God and will be among those who will not be saved (Hebrews 11:6).

Many Become Unfaithful To The Lord.

Not only are there some who will not be saved because they do not believe in God, but also some will not be saved because they once believed in God, obeyed His will, but they wavered in their faith. You see, contrary to the belief of “once saved always saved” it is possible for one to lose their salvation (Hebrew 3:12-13, 6:4-6, 10:26-31). Therefore, only those who endure and remain faithful to the Lord unto death will be saved (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10), and those who do not endure and remain faithful to the Lord unto death will be among those who will not be saved (2 Peter 2:21-22).

Many Follow The Teachings of Men.

Sadly, there will be many who will not be saved because they choose to follow the teachings and commandments of men (Matthew 15:9), rather than the gospel of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:6-9; Colossians 2:8). You see, one must always put their trust in God and obey Him, rather than man (Psalm 118:8; Acts 5:29). However, there are too many today who do not endure sound doctrine, but rather they have “itching ears” and because of that, they heap up for themselves teachers who will accommodate their own desires (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Because of this, they will be among those who will not be saved (2 John 9).

Many Trust In Feelings To Assure Them of Salvation.

Another reason for why many will not be saved is because there are many today who are trusting in their feelings to assure them of salvation, rather than being one who does what is required of them to be saved (Mark 16:16). You see, many believe that as long as they are a good person, one who believes in God, and one who minds their own business, they will be saved. However, Cornelius, was a devout man, one who feared God, gave alms generously, and prayed to God always (Acts 10:1-2), but yet, he was still commanded to be baptized into Christ (Acts 10:48). You see, the way of man is not in himself (Jeremiah 10:23), and those who think so, will be among those who will not be saved (Proverbs 14:12).

There Are Many Who Love Sin.

One more reason to suggest for why many will not be saved is because of the fact that there are many who just simply love sin (2 Timothy 3:1-4). However, sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4), it separates one from God (Isaiah 59:2), and the only remedy for sin is the precious redeeming blood of Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Therefore, failure to repent of your sins (Luke 13:3, 5), and failure to be baptized to wash away your sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16), will result in being among those who will not be saved. For as the apostle Paul informed, “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

My friend, I do not know exactly how many will be saved, but I do know, I want to be among one of those few who are saved (Matthew 7:14). Now, I ask, how about you?

✍ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816