

# Assembling

Hebrew 10:24-27

Introduction: Many brethren do not understand the seriousness of forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. The problem has become so chronic in some churches that they have resorted to gimmicks to entice attendance (e.g. entertaining performances, coffee and donuts in the foyer, dinners after services, etc.). Or worse, they say nothing as assembling becomes an optional decision.

In this lesson, we will study Hebrews 10:19-31 including three exhortations and the main reasons why we should never fail to miss assembling.

## I. The historical significance for attending (Heb. 10:19-21).

A. In the temple, a veil separated the high priest from the Most Holy Place. Access to God was extremely limited. In fact, the High Priest was only permitted to approach God in the Most Holy Place once a year. No one else was even allowed to enter the Most Holy Place under the penalty of death.

B. However, Jesus Christ has made it possible for us “to enter the Holiest.” That was made possible by His death. His flesh represented that veil that was torn asunder (Matt. 27:51). Christ is now encouraging us to enter the place of God with boldness.

C. His death made it possible for us to be sanctified (Heb. 10:14). The reason God killed Nadab and Abihu wasn’t just due to disobedience. “*Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, **I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace***” (Lev. 10:3; KJV). No one can come to God unless they are sanctified (set apart via a separation from the worldly).

D. Christ is now our High Priest who has “consecrated for us” a “new and living way” whereby we can come into the house of God (i.e. the Lord’s Church). It is an honor to worship God in His presence. It’s an honor never before given to anyone before Christ’s death on the cross.

## II. The Three Exhortations.

A. Let us draw near (Heb. 10:22). Via baptism our bodies are washed in water and our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience. Since Paul is addressing Jews in this letter, he is using an analogy to the Old Testament process of sanctification (Lev. 10:3). That exhortation is open to all.

B. Let us hold fast (Heb. 10:23). The confession of our hope of eternal salvation is as sure as God who promised it ***if*** we don’t waver.

C. Let us consider (Heb. 10:24-25). We all need encouragement to do the right things, even stimulating one another not to miss the assembling of ourselves

together. Assembling with God is an honor and a privilege that only the sanctified (i.e. set apart Christians) enjoy (Matt. 18:20).

1. Some say forsaking should only be applied to those who constantly miss services rather than those who miss occasionally. However, this same Greek word is used to refer to a single event (Matt. 27:46; 2 Tim. 4:16).

2. Some say only the Sunday assembly is being implied. However, this passage is against missing the assembling which refers to any coming together of the church. It is from the Greek word “episnago” not “ekklesia” which is the regular word used for assembly.

III. What results for forsaking the assembling (Heb. 10:26-29)?

A. It is willful sin because it is done knowingly and deliberately. (This would necessarily exclude times which are beyond one’s control.)

B. It rejects and removes the sacrifice given by Christ which removes sin. It is like pretending the payment given by another to pay your own debt was insignificant. If you paid someone’s electric bill for them and that person didn’t appreciate it, would you be upset?

C. It is insulting to God! After Christ gave His life for you?!?! You would rather be somewhere else??? It’s like not showing up to your parent’s funeral! That shows a lot of love for them doesn’t it?

D. How can we say we love God when we are forsaking the assembling?

E. It brings “a certain fearful expectation of judgment.” God’s anger is aroused against those who forsake assembling (fiery indignation). God will devour the adversaries (which include those who forsake the assembling)!

F. No less a punishment than eternal Hell is deserved for those who forsake assembling (vs 29). How shall we escape such punishment if we neglect so great a salvation (Heb. 2:3)?

G. It leaves the one who forsakes without an excuse. God’s vengeance will be against those who forsake the assembling of ourselves together!

Conclusion: If we have forsaken the assembling for a reason that could have been controlled, the only way to avoid God’s vengeance is to repent and ask for His forgiveness. Forsaking the assembling arouses God’s anger. Don’t think God will overlook the insulting, disrespectful and willful sin of forsaking the assembling (Heb. 10:30-31)!