

Fundamentals Of The Church

Ardent Attendance

(He 10:19-31)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
 - i. Gospel Meeting
 - ii. New brother and sister
 - iii. Welcome visitors
2. Continued series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. We have looked at a number of things.
 - b. Today we are going to look at that which has been talked about a lot but is listen to rarely it seems in the brotherhood as a whole, which is "Ardent Attendance."
3. Background to the book of Hebrews.
 - a. You have Jews that obeyed God's plan of salvation.
 - i. **Ro 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
 - ii. **Ac 1:8** "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 - b. You have these Jews being persecuted very intensely.
 - i. Written between 62-68 AD it would seem.
 - ii. It was written before the destruction of Jerusalem 70 AD (**He 10:25**).
 - iii. Thus is was the Jews that were doing the majority of persecution.
 1. This is seen in the books of Galatians, Hebrews, Acts...
 - c. Thus you have Christians wanting to go back to Judaism.
 - i. The Hebrew writer was showing the brethren the need to look to Christ and not drift away back into Judaism.
 1. **He 2:1-3** "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him"¹
3. An outline of Hebrews
 - a. The Superiority of the Person of Christ (1-7)
 - b. The Superiority of the Law of Christ (8-10)
 - c. The Superiority of Christian Living (11-13:17)
 - d. Concluding Remarks (13:18ff)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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4. Hebrews Ten

- a. Found in the "Superiority of the Law of Christ"
- b. Verses 1-18
 - i. These verses deal with how Christ was the best, most perfect, and last sin offering needed.
 1. **He 10:11-14** "And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

I. Exegetical Look At Hebrews 10:19-31

A. Verses 19-21

1. These deal with a building block on the last thought "therefore" of Christ being the best, most perfect, and last sin offering.
 - i. The old saying is still true, "when you see the word therefore you must ask yourself what is it there for?"
2. The Hebrew writer is saying since Christ died for us and made an avenue to God through Christ for us...

B. Verses 22-25

1. ...then we should...
 - i. Draw near to God with a true heart since God removed our sin for us.
 - ii. Hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering since God keeps His promises.
 - iii. Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.
2. How do we draw near to God, hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, and stir one another to love and good works?
 - i. By not forsaking/neglecting the assembly.
3. Thus if we forsake/neglect the meeting of the saints we...

C. Verses 26-31

1. ...sin deliberately/willfully.
2. What is the logical outcome to those that willfully sin?
 - i. They will not be guaranteed heaven because there is no sacrifice for sin any longer. In other words they will have fallen from grace.
 - a. **Ga 5:4** "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."
 - ii. If they are not guaranteed heaven (the promise) then what remains is God's judgment which is if heaven is not your destination then hell is ie the "fury of fire that will consume" you.
3. Why is this the case?
 - i. Because willfully sinning...
 - a. Spurns the Son of God.
 - b. Profanes the blood of the covenant.
 - c. Outrages/insults the Spirit of grace.

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II. The Application To Every Christian

- A. So the question we must always ask is, how does this apply to me today?
 - 1. There is no doubt that the Hebrew writer was writing this to Christians in anticipation of the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - 2. This does not mean the point is not valid for all Christians today.
- B. Keep in mind also...
 - 1. That the three things that are said to be consequences of the having knowledge of the perfect sin sacrifice are not subject to choice ie picking and choosing which part you want to follow and can ignore the rest.
 - 2. For example most would argue against the fact that...
 - i. We can draw near to God with "most" of our heart, or that we can do so with some assurance of faith.
 - a. No, we need all our heart and all assurance.
 - ii. We must hold fast the confession of our hope with some wavering.
 - a. No, we need no wavering.
 - iii. We can stir up one another to casual caring and decent works.
 - a. No, we need to be stirred to love and good works.
- C. So why does everyone change how we accomplish the last thing?
 - 1. How to stir up love and good works.
 - 2. Most people's idea of not forsaking the assembly is as follows.
 - i. Yes, I was not there at services but I never had any thought of leaving the church so I did not forsake the assembly.
 - 3. The problem here is our understanding of forsake.
 - i. So many have it as this idea of leaving with prejudice or rejecting the assembly.
 - a. I will even give into the reality that many "lexicons" say this very idea to desert abandon ie turn your back on something.
 - ii. One problem with this definition.
 - a. **Mt 27:46** "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?""
 - iii. Did God desert or abandon Christ?
 - a. Of course not, He deliberately chose not to be there for a moment, because Jesus became a sin sacrifice, with every intention of returning. God never deserted or abandoned Christ in the since of turning His back on Him.
 - iv. Forsaking is not turning ones back on the church it's making a conscience choice not to attend, ie willful/deliberate sin.
 - 4. Also many say "God only requires us to meet on Sunday, so as long as I'm there once on Sunday I have fulfilled **He 10:25**."
 - i. First off this argument is based on being ignorant of the scriptures.
 - a. I say that because most people think this.
 - b. God was so right when He said, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (**Ho 4:6**).

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- ii. Second could someone please show me this scripture?
 - a. I know God requires us to meet on Sunday to worship specifically the Lord's Supper, however nowhere does God limit **He 10:25** to Sunday, nor can one determine if the writer was only talking about Sunday.
 - b. In other words **He 10:25** does not say "which" assembly is ok to forsake.
 - 1. **Ac 2:46** "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart"
 - 2. This is just one example of many.
 - c. Notice by this that Bible class is a part of the assembly.
 - 1. There will be a lot of people pining for Christ on the day of judgment with expectation but will hear depart from me based on their neglecting the assembling of the saints.
 - iii. Third we must follow our leaders and cannot dismiss unless they are leading astray.
 - a. **He 13:7** "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."
 - b. Let it be known elders/men that you have no right to make an appointed time to assemble and then say you can choose to neglect it. God binds through law when the assembly time is determined (**He 10:25**).
- D. What does this mean on a practical level?
- 1. It means if we miss we better have a reason and not an excuse.
 - i. Reasons are as follows...
 - a. Car breaks down on the way...can't be helped.
 - b. You're in the hospital.
 - c. You're too sick to come, or do anything else.
 - d. You cannot find a way, ie can't drive at dark and no one can come and get you...
 - e. These are just a few of many that could be mentioned, notice with each of them there is no choice in the matter.
 - ii. Excuses are as follows...
 - a. Traveling...There is no excuse to travel and miss services. You can leave the day before, the day after or plan a head and find a place to worship in route.
 - b. Vacation...This is not a reason to miss services ever, we are never to take a vacation from God.
 - c. Sick..."I don't want to get anyone sick," yet they work all day with people the same day. If you can work you can worship, just don't hug, kiss, or shake hands etc with brethren.

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- d. Work...There is no way one is going to be able to say to God that work is not a choice.
 1. The one that has a job that requires work when we are to assemble must find a way to get out of that job or change the parameters of that job.
 2. Never take a job without it completely understood the times you will not be there, due to the assembly.
2. Examples of real dedication.
 - i. A husband and wife who left their son at the hospital to the husband could go preach and the wife worship even though the doctors said he might not be alive when he returned.
 - ii. A man who was told his wife was in labor but he went to worship and came later.
 - iii. A man who was told and two different jobs that if he left to worship on a Wednesday he would be fired, he left anyway to go worship God.
3. People say well surely God understands.
 - i. **Mt 8:21-22** "Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.'""
 - ii. **Lk 14:26** "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."
4. When we choose to miss the assembly we choose to sin and this is not the attitude that God expects from us.
 - i. **Mt 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."
 - ii. **Lk 10:27** "So he answered and said, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'""

CONCLUSION

1. It's sad that so many preachers have to preach on this. It should be the case that we love the Lord so much that we love worshiping God and are willing to sacrifice any and everything to do so.
 - a. The truth of the matter is "if we love God we can do whatever we want because whatever we want will be based on following God" (**Jn 14:15**).
2. Let us ask ourselves...are we doing everything we can to make sure we only miss because of reasons and not excuses?
 - a. My hope is that you never miss because of excuses brethren but rather show your love for your God.
3. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**