

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 6, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Hebrews 10: 25

KJV ~ “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*;
but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Title: “CHURCH, Don’t Leave the Building!”

I would like to raise a few *questions* this morning. *Questions* you and I can *answer* or should know the *answer*. *Answers* that challenge *our CHRISTian*, practice today!

Question 1. What does the word “CHURCH” mean? Answer: *Ekklesia*, assembly; the gathering; the called-out ones; those who come together for a specific task. Example: Luke 4: 16, “And **HE** (**JESUS**) came to Nazareth, where **HE** had been brought up: and, as **HIS** custom (habit) was, **HE** went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”

Question 2. How can one become a member of The CHURCH? Answer: The *must* be ‘born-again,’ born *spiritually*, into **The CHURCH**. They *must* “...*confess* with their mouth **The LORD JESUS**, and *believe* in their heart that **GOD** hath raised **HIM** from the dead, they shall be saved (from eternal damnation). (Romans 10: 9) Another, John 3: 3, “**JESUS** answered and said unto him (Nicodemus), *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see The KINGdom of GOD.*” And, verse 5, **JESUS** answered, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of The SPIRIT, he cannot enter into The KINGdom of GOD.*”

Question 3. WHO is The Head of The CHURCH? Answer: **JESUS CHRIST!** Colossians 1: 18, “And... in verse 13b, ...**GOD’S dear SON**... v.14, In **WHOM** we have redemption though **HIS** blood... forgiveness of sins... v. 15, **WHO** is the image of **The Invisible GOD**, the firstborn of every creature... v. 16, by **HIM**... were all things created... v. 17, **HE** is before all things and by **HIM** all things consist. V. 18, And, **HE** is **The Head of The Body, The CHURCH...**”

Question 4. Where is The CHURCH located? Answer: In our Hearts! I Corinthians 12: 27 (1-31), “Now ye are **The Body of CHRIST**, and members in particular.”

“CHURCH, Don’t Leave the Building!”

OK, I agree the Pandemic is real—but it is not the first! OK, the Brick and Mortar—Traditional Church-house, that constitutes ‘physical gathering of believers together for the *purpose* of *Worshipping—PRAISING GOD* is on a fast decline—but it is not the first! OK, our cultural characteristics and practices today is a Cyber Culture: widespread use of ‘*computer networks* (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Meetup, Google+... everybody has a *cellphone* or is using *smartphones, desktops/laptops computers, MP3 players, Game consoles, e-bookreaders, portable gaming devices*—but it is not the first! OK, since its Internet Culture and we need to be an Online Church: I-Church, that is, *Internet Church* or E-Church, that is, *Virtual Church* that’s designed to cater to the *spiritual* needs of those “that are not able to join **The CHURCH**, when it gathers together in person.” We need, a Digital Church. #!!#X##!!#!

“CHURCH, Don’t Leave the Building!”

I believe **The BIBLE**, *biblio*, **The Inspired WORD of GOD**, that has only **ONE AUTHOR** (Many inspired writes) “For ever, O **LORD, THY WORD** is settled in heaven.” (Psalm 119: 89)

“CHURCH, Don’t Leave the Building!”

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

-- “Not forsaking...” It does not say, “not missing.” I hear you asking, “When is it alright to “forsake” the assembly? How can you, “forsake” yourself from assembling together in **The Body** you were ‘born’ in. There is NO exceptions, and we are NOT to make any.

However, “forsake,” *egkataleipo*, does not mean *to be absent*, but to “*desert, to abandon*.” To “forsake” is to choose some activity above assembling whether out of neglect, fear, or faulty priorities. [Paul was imprisoned, but he never “forsook,” **The CHURCH!**]

This helps me, I *Believe The BIBLE*—Matthew 6: 33...

-- “as is the manner (habit) of some is...” Some believe they are allowed to “forsake” *some* assemblies... (It’s *my Birthday, my Vacation, I buried my Loved one yesterday, it’s Super-Bowl Sunday*) Others say, “as long as I show up sometimes... alright, at least once a month.

CHURCH, a habit: is the “repetition of a singular action” to the point where it has become *so natural* that you do not even have to think about it. Simply say, “Oh, its Sunday, I ain’t going!”

-- “...not forsaking our own assembling together.”

It does not say, “not forsaking The LORD’S Supper!” Acts 20: 7 do say, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread (**The LORD’S Supper**) ...” they had *obeyed* Hebrews 10: 25.

While **The LORD Supper** is what we *do* when we assemble, it is not the only thing. We come together for **CHURCH School**, where we learn from **JESUS**; *Bible Study* where we are “equip to do the work of the ministry;” to *sing/praise* **GOD**, to *pray* and hear from **GOD**, to pay our *tithes/offerings* for Missions/Ministries, until **JESUS** come!

-- Note, “assembling,” *episunagoge*, it does not refer to just any particular gathering of **The CHURCH**, but to the ‘*habitual*’ gathering of the local congregation. “*Sunago*” is a Greek word for “gathering.” That is, in “the synagogue.” “*Epi*,” at the beginning of the word heightens the point of “gathering to a specific place.”

-- “...but exhorting (encouraging) one another...” It does not say, “*get* something out of it for yourselves.” The *importance* is not about what you *get*, BUT what you *give* to others. Galatians 6: 9, 10, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Come and encourage others with your *presence* and your *participation*. Consider others!

-- “...and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

I need you, you need me, we’re all a part of **GOD’S Body**.

Stand with me agree with me, we’re all a part of **GOD’S Body!**

It is **HIS Will** that every need be supplied. You are important to me,

I need you to survive.

I pray for you, you pray for me. I love you, I need you to survive.

I won’t harm you with words from my mouth, I Love you,

I Need you to Survive.