

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Hebrews 10:23-31](#).
- B. From Roy H. Enoch.
- C. Assembling together is optional: God does not force us to do it. But it is an obligation if one wants to be acceptable to God. It is also a great spiritual opportunity.
- D. On the Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue, "as was His custom" (Lk. 4:14-16; Mt. 12:9; Mk. 1:21).
- E. The teachers in the early church used the Jewish synagogue as a place to teach, as well as the church assembled (Ac. 13:14; Heb. 10:25).
- F. The Greek word translated "church" means assembly or congregation. The Latin word means "those called out."
 - 1. To say that one can be saved without attending the assembly is to say that one can be saved without the Lord's church.
 - 2. The Lord's family is called "church" or "assembly" because they met regularly for worship to God's glory.
 - 3. David expressed the attitude of God's faithful even today in Psa. 122:1:
 - a. The "house of the Lord" today is the assembly or church.
 - b. It is not the building where they assemble.

I. WORSHIP IS OPTIONAL.

- A. It is obviously an option for some people.
 - 1. Some are in the assembly every time the doors are open.
 - 2. Some are never here.
 - 3. Therefore, it must be optional.
- B. Going to heaven is also optional since there is a hell.
 - 1. *Two fellows were out fishing on a Sunday morning. One says, "I feel bad about skipping church today." The other says, "I couldn't go anyway, my wife is sick."*
 - 2. Our love for the Lord is publicly shown by how important His worship is to us.
 - 3. Like faithfulness at work, it is not how easy it is but how committed we are.
 - a. Recently, Lee Iococca gave the keys to a new Dodge pickup to a Chrysler worker who had not missed a day of work in 50 years.
 - b. Bro. Gus Nichols said a few years ago at the FHU lectureship that he had missed two services of the church since his baptism: he was in the hospital. When he was baptized as a teen-ager, he decided to attend every service that he possibly could.
 - c. It is not a matter of effort as much as it is commitment: when you are committed to something you will make the effort.
 - 4. God does not force us to worship, but teaches that we should love Him enough that we would want to. Anytime we do not want to worship the devil wins. Worship is a privilege.

II. WORSHIP IS AN OBLIGATION.

- A. The specific commands concerning the Sabbath day and worship in the OT shows that God did not consider it optional.
 - 1. He gave specific requirements for His worship.
 - 2. The penalties showed the seriousness of the worship.
 - 3. Many things mentioned in the OT are the same in principle in the NT:
 - a. God requires generous giving.
 - b. He forbids crimes against persons and property.
 - c. He required that the Sabbath day be kept holy.

- d. He now forbids us to neglect or abandon our assembling together (10:25).
(It is not our social life He requires, but our encouraging each other in worship.)
- B. It is not God who needs worship:
 - 1. We need to exalt our Creator and show love to our Savior.
 - 2. We need to learn to meet the needs of others to have an appreciation for the blessings He gives us.
 - 3. We are the ones that need to be reminded of God's love in Christ (at Calvary).

III. **WORSHIP IS AN OPPORTUNITY.**

- A. Faithful, dedicated people look forward to worship.
 - 1. We get out of it what we put into it.
 - 2. When our focus is what we can give to the worship, we will receive greater blessings.
 - 3. If our goal is to be entertained or served, we will be disappointed.
- B. There are many blessings to look forward to in worship:
 - 1. It is an opportunity to learn (Mic. 4:2).
 - 2. It shows where our loyalty is.
The story is told of an elderly man who was almost blind and deaf who never missed a service. When asked why he came if he could not hear or see what was going on, he replied: I want the devil and everyone else to know whose side I am on.
 - a. What we do at worship times shows whose side we are on.
 - b. Too many think they can show loyalty to X, and not worship--not true!
 - 3. It encourages others.
 - a. It encourages others who are strong, and is an example for those who are weak.
 - b. It is shortsighted and selfish to only think of what we can get out of it.
 - 4. It will keep us strong, while missing/neglect will weaken us.
 - a. We try to maintain our property and skills to prevent their deterioration and loss.
 - b. We should also be conscious of the need to maintain the soul and spirit.
 - 5. It gives us rest from the pressures of the world.
 - a. It is not like the man who was asked if he was going to church who replied, "Yes, I can't afford to lose the sleep."
 - b. We need to steady our lives in a turbulent world.
 - 6. It supports evangelism to always be present early to greet visitors and other members.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. If you had the same attendance record at work as you do at worship and Bible study, would your boss think you were a faithful worker? Do you think God does?
- B. If you have wandered away from God, will you not come to Him today as we extend His invitation?
- C. Many of you know how discouraged I got with only 47 people in worship last week, how discouraged do you think it made God?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.