

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Psalm 122:1-9**.
- B. The author of this lesson is unknown; I found it from Jeff Bay who found it from David Smith.
- C. Questions:
 - 1. Why can't I just worship God in the comfort of my home?
 - 2. Why can't I worship God in the woods, or on the river or lake?
 - 3. Why can't I worship God while on the beach, while wiggling my toes in the sand?
 - 4. Do I really need the assembly?
- D. Yes, you do need the assembly. Not just because of Heb. 10:25. This morning's lesson deals with seven reasons you need the church assembly on the Lord's Day.

SEVEN REASONS YOU NEED THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

- A. **First, I need the church because it is a family reunion.**
 - 1. Jesus said, "Who is my family? Those who do My will" (Mk. 3:33,35).
 - 2. We are a family--rejoicing with one another, crying with one another, helping each other (1Jn. 3:1).
See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
 - 3. We all struggle against sin and the church can be one of the best support groups there is. We are to help one another in this struggle (Gal. 6:1, 10; Heb. 3:12-13).
(Gal 6:10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
(Heb 3:12-13) Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- B. **Second, I need the church because it is a classroom.**
 - 1. I'm preparing for a mission; I'm on an extended course of study (see 2Pet. 1:5-9).
 - 2. For the rest of my life I'm enrolled in a course of Xian discipleship (Col. 1:28-29).
And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.
 - 3. There is no room in the church for a "know-it-all" attitude. We are all learners (Mt. 28:20).
"...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;"
- C. **Third, I need the church because it is a refuge.**
 - 1. It is a mini-retreat. Jesus left the crowds to pray (Mt. 14:23).
And after He had sent the multitudes away, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.
 - 2. It is a place to focus my thoughts on things above, to worship (Col. 3:1-4).
If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
 - 3. It is a place to get away from the busy-ness of the world.
- D. **Fourth, I need the church because it is like a billboard.**
 - 1. As my neighbors see me go down to that building on the corner week after week, they can tell what is important in my life (1Th. 2:8).
Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.
 - 2. If all my brothers and sisters are there, too, their neighbors may wonder what is going on that attracts people so regularly.

3. In your job it may be very, very difficult to do any evangelism. Even in your neighborhood the opportunity to share your faith may be next to non-existent. But you can be evangelistic by regular worship/class attendance.
- E. **Fifth, I need the church because it is a memorial service.**
1. If a war buddy had sacrificed his/her life for me, and there was to be a memorial service to honor such a one, would I be there? Of course!!
 2. Jesus died for me, and I need to honor Him at the memorial service we call Communion.
 3. The LS is about the death of X (1Cor. 11:26). This is a memorial service I want to be a part of.
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
 4. X asks us to eat the Supper "in remembrance of Me." When we are not in the assembly to take Communion, we are not remembering X as He has asked us to (Lk. 22:19).
And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- F. **Sixth, I need the church because it is a victory celebration.**
1. Jesus left an empty tomb (Mk. 16:6)! Raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25).
*(Mk 16:6) And he said^ to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him."
(Rom 4:25) He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*
 2. We can celebrate the resurrection together (1Pet. 1:21).
who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.
 3. Our assembly needs to be a positive one, celebrating Jesus' triumph over death and Satan.
- G. **Seventh, I need the church because it is a time to spend with my Father.**
1. Time with our heavenly Father, God.
 2. I am a child who needs the warmth and guidance of a father.
 3. When the church assembles together Jesus is there (Mt. 18:20).
"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. I need the church assembly because:
1. I'm part of a family.
 2. I have lots to learn.
 3. I need a retreat from the world.
 4. I want to remember the death of my Lord.
 5. I want to celebrate the great victory over sin and death.
 6. I want to spend time with my heavenly Father.
- B. That's why I need the church assembly. I think that is why you need it too!
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.