

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH

Psalm 122:1

Psalm 42:1-4 Though David went through much adversity and turmoil in his life, his love for God never wavered. His trust in God through the years of running from Saul, his sin with Bathsheba, and running from his son Absalom, David never stopped loving God and wanting to be with God's people.

II Peter 3:18 The last words of anyone usually are worth listening too. Peter's last words are so important to all believers that they are not only words of encouragement but also words of warning.

II Timothy 2:15 Paul had similar words to us as he wrote to Timothy. If believers are to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord...” we must study the only book that will help us grow and become mature Christians that are able to help others know Christ in a more meaningful way.

Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2 The N. T. is pretty clear as to when believers are to meet together each week. Probably for most believers the best reason to meet on Sunday is because it is the first day of the week when Jesus was raised from the dead. The important thing to note is that we are to meet together.

There are people that call themselves believers that say they can “worship” God at the river or in nature at some vacation spot in “their own way.” God says if we are to worship Him we do it His way!

WHY WE MEET TOGETHER

IMPORTANT: Hebrews 13:5 When we make the comment that we come to church to meet with God we show our ignorance. Believers are ALWAYS and ETERNALLY in the presence of God.

I Peter 2:1-5 As we have said previously, we do not come to “meet with God”, we come together in order to lay aside the filthiness of the world for a time together. We come together in order for us to hear the word of God and continue to grow spiritually for God and for each other. We come together in order that we might worship God together, (offer up spiritual sacrifices), in our singing, in our praise, in our offerings, in our prayers of thanksgiving and our needs.

Ephesians 3:14-19; 5:25-27 Paul prayed that we might be strengthened, rooted and grounded in love, and that we might be able to understand the height and depth of God's love for us. Paul later in the same letter told us how we can do these things together by telling us that Jesus died for the church, (the body of Christ), “the pillar and ground of the truth” - **I Timothy 3:15.**

Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10: 19-22 What a privilege we have in Christ as to have instant access to God the Father and Jesus our Savior! The O. T. saints had to go to the priest and the priest had to go to the high priest and they all had to give blood sacrifices and no one could ever go directly to God.

WE ARE COMPELLED BY GOD

Hebrews 10:23 God has made it our duty to hold fast our profession of faith and not to waver, not to be easily shaken through false doctrine, through intimidation by friends, relatives or authorities.

Philippians 1:27-29 Paul is writing to the church and encourages them to stand fast “together” in the face of adversity and never deviate from the number one priority of living and preaching the gospel.

Hebrews 10:24 This simple verse is often overlooked by most believers. God wants us to “consider one another”, let us be aware that others in my church are as important as I am and have burdens that are maybe greater than my own. Do we come to church in a mindset only of our own little universe?

I Pt 1:22; I Jn 3:14; Gal. 6:10 To “consider one another” means we are not phoney in our remarks to one another. It means we do not gossip or charge another with a fault but are forgiving and truly love.

Hebrews 10:25 There is no more insult to a preacher than to hear the excuses church members give when they miss church meetings. Pastors are the shepherds that are called to feed and care for the flock. It takes hours of study, prayer, visitation and counsel to prepare for every service. God compels us to be at church together as His family meets to worship Him. We must remember, Jesus died for the church.