



Bethel

Discipleship Series

GATHERING TOGETHER

I. A NEW LIFE - A DIFFERENT LIFE

- A. The life of a true Christian is radically different from the life of an individual who is not a disciple of Jesus Christ. There has always been, and will always be, a great difference between the way genuine Christians and non-Christians live.
- B. One major difference between the lives of Christians and non-Christians is the emphasis that Christians place upon going to church regularly and attending services in the House of God on a consistent basis.
- C. The New Testament makes it clear that regular and consistent attendance in the House of the Lord is more than just a tradition. It is a scripturally mandated practice that has been followed by Christians for almost 2000 years.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Hebrews 10:23-25 – “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵ 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.”

II. THE BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

- A. In both the Old and New Testaments, the necessity of setting aside a day each week for gathering together to worship God is not only emphasized and strongly encouraged, but is commanded (*Exodus 20:8, Hebrews 10:25*).
- B. The Hebrew people were instructed to designate the seventh day of the week as both a day of rest and a day to assemble together to worship God.
 - 1. The attitude of the faithful Jews concerning this weekly gathering was expressed by the Psalmist.
 - *Psalm 122:1* – “I was glad when they said unto me let us go to the house of the Lord.”
 - 2. For the Hebrews, gathering together in the House of the Lord for worship was not to be considered a burden, a duty, or a responsibility. It was expected that their times of corporate worship (worshipping together) would be anticipated with great joy.
 - 3. This is the kind of attitude that modern day Christians should have concerning the attendance of church services and fellowship events with other brothers and sisters.
 - 4. Our hearts should be overflowing with gladness and excitement because we are gathering with God’s people, whom we love dearly, to give praise and worship to God. It is a special time for a special purpose, and it should bring us great joy to be able to participate in such an event.
- C. Jesus was faithful to attend the House of the Lord on the Sabbath during His earthly life (*Luke 4:16*). If it was important for Jesus Christ to attend a house of worship regularly, we, His followers, should certainly do no less.

GATHERING TOGETHER

- D. The Church in the book of Acts sets an example for us as to how believers should join together regularly as a body for corporate worship and fellowship.
- *Acts 2:42* – “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*”
 - *Acts 2:46* – “*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.*”
1. Not only did the original Christians set a precedent of continuing in the Apostles’ doctrine and prayer, they also continued steadfastly in regular corporate worship and fellowshiping together.
 2. In the very early years of the First Church, there were no designated church buildings and, consequently, the believers (who were Jews) originally met in the Jewish Temple for corporate worship.
 3. Eventually, the Christians were no longer welcome in the Temple and were forbidden to worship there. At this point they began to worship together in homes and in open-air spaces away from public view.
 4. In 112 A.D, eighty years after the birth of the Church, Pliny the Younger, the Roman Governor of Bithynia-Pontus, wrote that Christians were “*in the habit of meeting before dawn on a stated day and singing alternately a hymn to Christ as to a god...*”
 5. Pliny states that this regular “gathering together” was the normal “habit” or custom of the early Christians.
 6. As persecution of the Church increased, the early Christians faced imprisonment and death if they were caught worshipping together.
 7. However, these devout believers considered “gathering together” for worship to be so important, and so necessary to their spiritual lives, that they continued to meet together for worship in underground tombs and catacombs.
 8. Their commitment to meet together regularly was so strong that they were willing to risk punishment, prison, and even death in order to worship together.
 9. Unfortunately, in many countries around the world even today, some Christians risk imprisonment if they are caught meeting together for worship.
- E. Christians in open societies who are free to gather for worship, yet neglect to be faithful to the House of God, are in sharp contrast to these devout believers whose faithfulness to corporate worship literally cost them their lives.
- F. With our liberty and freedom to worship comes a great responsibility, for to “whomsoever much is given, much will be required” (*Luke 12:48*).

III. A COMMANDMENT

- A. Pliny the Younger called the weekly worship meetings of the first-century Christians, a “habit” or a custom.
- B. However, the book of Hebrews takes this practice beyond the realm of just a “habit.” The scripture places corporate worship in the category of a commandment or a decree. It declares boldly, “*not the forsaking of the assembling of ourselves together.*”

GATHERING TOGETHER

1. Church attendance is not just a “good suggestion” or a “good habit”; it is God’s specific and clearly expressed will for all believers.
2. Attending worship services on a regular and consistent basis is a matter of being obedient to God’s Word. To be unfaithful in church attendance is to willfully disregard what scripture has commanded us to do.

- **James 4:17** – “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

- C. Even in the early Church, some were obviously beginning to fall into the bad habit of not meeting together regularly with a local church. Hebrews says that this bad habit was “the manner of some,” but it also firmly reveals that this kind of behavior is not acceptable or correct.
- D. In reality, we should require no other additional instruction on this subject than Hebrews 10:25. This is the direct commandment of the Lord.

IV. RECEIVING VERSUS GIVING

- A. People sometimes base their church attendance upon how much they think the service or event will benefit them.
 1. It is a common practice today among some individuals to think that going to church is a matter of finding a church that meets their perceived needs and then attending that church because they “*get something out of it.*”
 2. These people have accepted the selfish idea that the church exists to serve them and to entertain them.
 3. For this reason, some churches have turned their pulpits into stages in order to entertain the congregation rather than to preach the Word of God in a way that challenges the carnal nature and seeks to develop the nature of Christ within believers.
 4. This “*what’s in it for me*” idea is foreign to the Bible.
- B. Scripture reveals that the gathering of the Church is primarily a sacred assembly that gives us the opportunity to honor God with worship and to offer thanksgiving to Him for salvation and the blessings of life.
- C. Our primary motivation for attending services should not be to *get*, but rather to *give* worship, honor and praise to Almighty God.
 - **Psalm 100: 2, 4** – “*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing...Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*”
- D. While there are certainly other biblical reasons to gather together for worship (*discussed later in this lesson*), understanding that the primary reason we gather together is to “*give*” and not just to “*receive*” compels us to be consistent in our worship attendance.

V. THE PLACE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. The House of God has always been synonymous with a place of instruction, teaching, and preaching.

GATHERING TOGETHER

- **Jeremiah 36:6** – “Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the Lord in the ears of the people in the Lord's house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.”
- B. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul commanded Timothy to teach and preach and to exhort the Church.
- **1 Timothy 4:13** – “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
- C. The Apostle Paul also commanded the Church elders in Colosse that after his letter (Colossians) had been read to the Colossian Church it should also be read “*in the church of the Laodiceans*” (Colossians 4:16).
- Obviously, the public gathering of the Church in the first century was a place where scripture was read and spiritual teaching and preaching was administered.
- D. Likewise today, the corporate gathering of the Church is the place where the major portion of teaching and instruction in God’s Word is conducted.
1. God gives pastors, teachers, and spiritual leaders guidance on what to teach and preach. God designs and prepares a healthy, balanced spiritual diet for church leaders to deliver to the local Church Body.
 2. When someone misses services frequently or avoids meetings altogether, he or she cannot receive the complete spiritual diet that God has prepared for each local Body. As a result, spiritual malnutrition and weakness occur.
- E. Just as it is necessary to feed our physical bodies *continually* with the proper food in order to be healthy and strong, so it is important to gather with God’s people regularly to hear His Word taught and preached so that we can be spiritually healthy.
- **Romans 10:17** – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

VI. THE CHURCH - THE BODY

- A. When an individual is born again of the water and of the Spirit and chooses to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, he or she becomes a member of the “Body” of Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-14** – “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many.”
 - **1 Corinthians 12:27** – “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”
- B. A natural, physical body is not disconnected and separated, but joined together and united. Its members function together in contact, cooperation, and harmony with each other.
1. Likewise, for the Body of Christ to function properly all of its members (“body parts”) must be joined together and connected; they need to be present and working together.
- **Ephesians 4:16** – “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

GATHERING TOGETHER

2. Each part within the body relies upon contact and mutual interaction with the other body parts in order to function properly and increase the overall health of the body. No body part can claim to be sufficient in and of itself.
 3. When a person neglects gathering together regularly for worship with the local Church Body, they effectively disconnect themselves from the Body and separate themselves from what God is doing in and through the local body of believers.
- C. In a physical, human body, any body part that is separated from the body will eventually die.
- The same is true with the spiritual body. Separation from the spiritual body will inevitably result in spiritual death.
- D. When a believer is in spiritual trouble or is facing a serious challenge, Satan will immediately discourage that individual from attending Church services. This is because Satan knows that there is strength, encouragement, restoration, and healing in the Body.
- If Satan can keep an individual separated from the Body, he effectively separates that person from the healing and spiritual wholeness that can be received by being a part of the Body as a whole.
- E. In order to be a fully functioning part of the Body of Christ, it is necessary to be joined to the Body and interact regularly with the other body parts. This is accomplished primarily through corporate worship meetings and times of fellowship together with the Body.

VII. KOINONIA

- A. A unique and powerful word in the original Greek of the New Testament aptly describes the community, or fellowship, that exists between believers in the Church: “koinonia.”
1. Koinonia is defined as: communion, joint participation, unity, the sharing in which one has in some group or group endeavor, close group participation, etc.
 2. The essential meaning of the word “koinonia” embraces the concepts of community, joint participation, sharing together, and intimacy.
 3. This word is used to describe the special type of fellowship that should exist within the Church. This fellowship includes community, cooperation, teamwork, group participation, and brotherly love.
- B. Today, the English word “fellowship” is often used to indicate “koinonia.”
1. Sometimes people can think of fellowship as a group of Christians having donuts and coffee together in the “Fellowship Hall” after worship services. This kind of event can indeed be a type of fellowship, but even a simple study of the Word reveals that true “koinonia” is much more than just this.
 2. Koinonia fellowship is the deep spiritual bond that binds Christians to each other and to Jesus Christ. It involves sharing one common life within the Body of Christ at all levels of existence and experience: spiritual, social, intellectual, economic, etc. No area of life can be excluded.
 - In *“The Bible, Church Tradition”* author Georges Florovsky states, *“Christianity from the very beginning existed as a corporate reality, as a community. To be Christian meant to belong to the community. Nobody could be Christian by himself, as an isolated individual, but only together with ‘the brethren,’ in a ‘togetherness’ with them ... Christianity is a ‘common life,’ a life in common.”*

GATHERING TOGETHER

3. The Apostle Paul makes this point very clearly when he describes the relationship that should exist between believers in the Body of Christ.
 - *Ephesians 2:19-22* – “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²²In whom ye also are buildd together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”
- C. The “koinonia fellowship” of the Church is more than just an abstract idea or concept. It involves more than just intangible thoughts or feelings of kindness and good will toward other believers. It involves active, physical participation together with other saints “of like precious faith” (2 Peter 1:1).
- D. We cannot escape this truth: one cannot have true fellowship with another believer who is “not present.” True “koinonia fellowship” requires the actual gathering together of believers to share in worship, in encouragement, in ministering to each other, and to tangibly share spiritual life together.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BRETHREN

- A. Gathering together on a regular basis also has compounded importance in regard to our relationship with our spiritual brothers and sisters.
 1. The Bible makes it clear that a right relationship with God requires a “vertical” and “horizontal” alignment; that is, we must have a vertical fellowship with God and a horizontal fellowship with other believers of “like precious faith.”
 2. The Bible teaches emphatically that it is not possible to love God and then refuse to love our spiritual brothers and sisters.
 - *1 John 4:20* – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”
 3. If you have a problem loving other genuine Christians, then you have a problem in your relationship with God.
- B. The Bible clearly teaches that if we have a right relationship with God, we will have continuing, ongoing fellowship with other believers.
 - *1 John 1:7* – “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
 - 1. This scripture reminds us that a secondary purpose of the gathering together is for the benefit of our brethren, coming together to help motivate and encourage one another. This is an important responsibility that is charged to every single believer. We *are* our brother’s keeper!
- C. There are numerous “one another” scriptures in the New Testament. The local Church gathering is the most obvious place where believers can fulfill these commands:
 - to express love one to another (*1 John 4:12*)
 - to encourage one another (*Hebrews 3:13*)
 - to provoke or “spur” one another to love and to good works (*Hebrews 10:24*)
 - to serve one another (*Galatians 5:13*)
 - to instruct one another (*Romans 15:14*)
 - to honor one another (*Romans 12:10*)

GATHERING TOGETHER

- to be kind and compassionate to one another (*Ephesians 4:32*)
 - to speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (*Ephesians 5:19*)
 - to pray for one another (*James 5:16*)
 - to bear one another's burdens (*Galatians 6:2*)
- D. At church gatherings, when you speak a word of encouragement to someone, pray with someone, advise someone, share a scripture with someone, or learn of someone in need who could use your assistance, you are fulfilling the law of Christ. (*Galatians 6:2*)
- E. Just as we must understand that we have a responsibility to gather together to minister to God in worship, we must also understand our responsibility to gather together to minister to one another in love.

IX. CHURCH AUTHORITY

- A. God has placed specific positions of authority and government within the local Church.
- ***Ephesians 4:11-12*** – “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*”
- B. These offices have been given by God to provide the necessary leadership to carry on the work of the Kingdom and to provide for the edifying of the local Church Body.
- C. We are instructed in scripture to submit to the authority of these spiritual leaders and to be accountable to them.
- ***Hebrews 13:17*** – “*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*”
- D. God designed this specific and unique system of accountability for the protection and progress of His people.
- E. The implementing of this authority and accountability is not possible unless we are a fixed part of an organized local Church that has designated pastors, elders, teachers, etc.
1. We cannot be under the authority of spiritual leaders, nor can they give an account for our souls, unless we are committed to a local Church Body and participate regularly in the life of the Church under the guidance of those appointed leaders.
 2. A television, radio, or other media evangelist or pastor cannot give account for the soul of someone he or she does not know.
 3. We cannot claim to be in submission to a watchman of our soul if we attend different churches each week and are not faithful in attendance and support to one local Church Body.
- F. The Bible also tells us to know them that are over us in the Lord (*1 Thessalonians 5:12*). We cannot truly know our spiritual leaders if we are not an active and functioning part of a local Church Body.
- G. The biblical commands to know our spiritual leaders, to honor them, and to submit to them cannot be obeyed unless we are a fixed and consistent part of a local body of believers and participate together regularly in worship and in fellowship.

GATHERING TOGETHER

X. OPERATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- A. God has given different Gifts of the Spirit to different members in the local Church Body. Although we are one Body, each member in the Body has different gifts that are given to him or her as God determines.
- *1 Corinthians 12:8-12* – “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. ¹²For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”
- B. The Holy Spirit manifests these gifts through various believers, as He chooses, for the edification of the Body of Christ.
- If we do not regularly meet together for worship, we cannot truly administer our spiritual gifts to the Body nor can we fully benefit from the ministry of the spiritual gifts of others in the Body.
- C. The New Testament teaches the importance of the orderly and rightful operation of the Gifts of the Spirit in corporate worship services.
- *1 Corinthians 14:26* – “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”
 - This scripture reveals that the Church, the Body of Christ, is expected to come together on a consistent basis in order for these spiritual gifts and ministries to be fulfilled.
- D. Meeting together regularly with the Church is absolutely essential for the full edification of the Gifts of the Spirit to take place in our lives.

XI. A SPECIAL MANIFESTATION OF GOD’S PRESENCE

- A. There is a scriptural promise of a special visitation of the Lord's presence whenever two or more gather specifically in the name of Jesus.
- *Matthew 18:20* – “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
- B. The scripture also says that God inhabits the praise of His people (*Psalm 22:3*), and in an atmosphere of corporate worship the Holy Spirit will often manifest Himself in an exceptional way.
- C. There is also a multiplied, synergistic power that is released when God’s people gather together and agree together in prayer and it is clear that significant spiritual gains can be realized through corporate prayer and worship.
- *Matthew 18:19* – “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”
- D. Even though Jesus Christ resides within the heart of every Spirit-filled believer, He honors a corporate gathering in His name by coming into the "midst" of His people with his manifest (or revealed) power and anointing.

GATHERING TOGETHER

- In such a gathering, Jesus Christ is able to do things in the hearts of His people as a whole that are not possible in a private setting.
- E. This agrees with how God has historically blessed His people when they worked together in unity to battle against their enemies.
- *Leviticus 26:8* – “*And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.*”
- F. When God’s people gather together in unity, great and powerful things can occur.
- *Acts 4:31* – “*And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*”

XII. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- A. Some Christians are elderly, feeble, or infirm, and for them, the only way to experience corporate worship is through some form of media.
1. God certainly understands the limitations of those whose physical strength and limited abilities prevent them from regularly attending church.
 2. We are blessed to live in an age where the electronic technology is available to bring a corporate worship service into the homes of those who are infirm or are physically incapacitated.
- B. However, for someone who is physically able, watching a worship service by means of media is not the same as “gathering together.” Media allows no personal interaction with other believers and as the common saying goes, “*it’s not the same as being there.*”
1. While “media church” is a wonderful option for those who are incapacitated, it is a totally different situation when individuals are physically able to attend regular services but are too lazy, too tired, too busy, too indifferent, too bitter, or simply make a choice to put other things such as entertainment and amusements before gathering with God’s people for worship.
 2. There is no substitute for corporate worship.

XIII. THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

- A. The Apostle Paul writes that the Corinthian church used the first day of the week, Sunday, as a day of gathering together. It appears that the Churches of Galatia had this custom as well.
- *1 Corinthians 16:1-2* – “*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*”
- B. This habit of meeting together on the first day of the week apparently had its origins in the very early days of the Church.
- *Acts 20:7* – “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.*”

GATHERING TOGETHER

- C. The fact that most of the early Churches met together on Sunday is clearly established in the writings of the 2nd Century A.D. Christian writers.
- D. However, nowhere in the New Testament is a specific day of the week mentioned as being required as the day of worship.
- E. We continue the practice of worshipping on Sunday as it closely mirrors the practice of the Early Church. It also honors the Lord by giving him the “first fruits” of our week, setting aside the “first day” as a special day of worship.

XIV. SO MUCH THE MORE

- A. The way we spend our time reveals what is most important to us. It is contradictory to say that Jesus Christ has first place in our lives when we are not faithful to attend His House for worship on a regular basis.
- B. Some Christians think that once they have learned the basic lessons of the Bible it is no longer necessary to regularly attend church. They feel that occasional attendance is all that is necessary.
 - We do not go to church regularly in order to *be* saved; we go because we *are* saved. However, regularly worshipping with other believers, and regularly hearing the Word of God strengthens and matures us so that we do not fall away from the faith.
- C. Others claim to be able to worship God more effectively when they are alone without the distractions of the “hypocrites” who attend church.
 - Actually, we should be thankful that there are imperfect people in the Church. If imperfect people were not allowed, then we would have no place in the Church either.
- D. These and other objections are merely excuses used by some in an effort to relieve themselves of obeying the scriptural command to gather together with the Body of Christ on a regular basis.
 - In reality, there is no excuse for unfaithfulness to the House of God.
- E. While the early Christians certainly endeavored to meet together on a designated day of the week for corporate worship, they also met together throughout the week, in some cases “daily,” to worship, teach, preach, pray, and fellowship together.
 - *Acts 2:46* – “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...”
 - *Acts 5:42* – “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”
- F. Scripture also reveals that our attendance to corporate worship and fellowship is something that should increase in frequency as we approach the time of the end.
 - *Hebrews 10:25* – “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.”
- G. As the “Day of the Lord” draws nearer, we should be striving to gather together with the Church even more frequently – at every opportunity. The two verses preceding Hebrews 10:25 give us the reason why this is necessary.

GATHERING TOGETHER

- **Hebrews 10:23-24** – “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* ²⁴*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.*”
 1. The scripture tells us that the “end times” will be “*perilous times*” (2 Timothy 3:3) when the love for God that many Christians possess will suddenly grow cold (Matthew 24:12).
 2. That is why we are told to assemble ourselves together “*so much the more*” that we may “*hold fast our profession of faith without wavering*” and “*exhort one another*” and provoke one another in our church services and gatherings to maintain godly love and good works.
 3. Signs of the end times are occurring daily and there is no doubt that the “Day of the Lord is at hand.” Therefore, we need to make a personal commitment to gather together more frequently than ever before so that we may be able to stand firm in the faith in these perilous times.
- H. The Church provides numerous opportunities for members to gather together frequently for worship, prayer, fellowship, and exhortation: Sunday services, midweek services, home group meetings, prayer meetings, men’s meetings, women’s meetings, youth meetings, children’s meetings, and many others.
 1. Each of these corporate meetings serves a purpose and meets a need. Some of these meetings are designed primarily for prayer, others primarily for fellowship, others for teaching. But each meeting provides an opportunity for the child of God to worship, to be blessed, and to be a blessing to others.
- I. Our modern schedules are indeed busy, but we must never allow the busy-ness of life to crowd out the truly important and eternal things. Nothing is more important than our time spent in the presence of the Lord.
- J. Meeting together regularly is absolutely necessary for healthy spiritual life. As genuine Christians, we must be committed to the commandment that instructs us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, even more frequently as the Day of the Lord approaches.
- K. Our attitude and practice should like that of the Psalmist David who said:
 - **Psalm 27:4** – “*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.*”