

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works

Hebrews 10:24

Store In My Heart

1Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This is one of several statements by Peter that get to the heart of both his epistle and our needs as Christians. Peter tells his readers that they need to be ready to do what is necessary, they need to think clearly and with purpose about what they have been called to do for God. He also tells us that our focus must be on Jesus and what He did for us on the cross.

These are the things that will keep us in a right relationship with God and bring us into the eternal home of the faithful. Just three decades after the cross, Peter urges his brethren to keep the hope Jesus provided in His sacrifice in focus always. Looking to Jesus will help keep us faithful today.



Attendance In Worship

Zeke Flores

I see an epidemic in the church today although the underlying attitude is as old as man himself. It's the attitude of "I won't be bothered" and it makes itself known in many ways. One obvious way it's manifested is in attendance in worship. The number of "stay at home" Christians is growing and for some congregations outnumber those who actually make it a determination to attend every worship service or Bible study the local church offers.

There are a number of reasons that can play into why a Christian decides to stay away when his brethren are assembling: hypocrisy among the members, personal grudges, scheduling conflicts, sickness (both major and minor), and the ever popular "The Bible doesn't say I have to attend every service!" And I get it. Sometimes things come up and we have to make a choice about what we're going to attend to. Sometimes our illness may not be severe, but it's contagious and we don't want to infect others. And, no, the Bible doesn't say we must attend every single time the doors are open. We are, after all, an army of volunteers.

But, just as one's attitude can play into determining how he'll dress for worship, so attitude plays a part in whether one will attend in the first place. Understand, I'm not suggesting that every time one misses a worship service that his heart is not right, I'm suggesting that it can certainly be an underlying cause for some.

For instance, having to interact with someone we may not like much forces us to inspect ourselves as to whether or not

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Gloria Hurst is scheduled for back surgery this Friday. She requests our prayers that it may go well.

Ruben Keisler has a severe narrowing in his upper spine that doctors are working to correct.

John Jackson is still visiting doctors to check his progress in healing from covid.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 21.

Wednesday we will start in Philemon 10.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

we can “forbear” with others as **Colossians 3:12-13** says we should. Other commitments that are scheduled during worship time is an opportunity to decide whether we’ll put the kingdom first or something else, however important it might be, as Jesus instructed in **Matthew 6:33**.

Fellowship isn’t safe, nor is it convenient. There’ll be times when we may have to force ourselves into polite conversation with someone who just isn’t our cup of tea. Or when we’ll have to make a tough choice about devotion to God and encouragement to His people when other pressing matters present themselves. Or when we have to choose between an uncomfortable pew and a soft, inviting couch.

But there’s an assembly of believers who need you and you need them. In His wisdom, God grouped us together into local churches for a reason. Perhaps it’s to experience a sense of belonging that we can’t get anywhere else. And if we’re not getting -or giving- it, it’s time to ask why.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering ... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” **Hebrews 10:23,25**

(We know what “hold fast” (faithful) means but consider this explanation I read on social media the other day ...

A preacher was once asked to define "Faithful Attendance at Worship," and this was his reply: "If your car started one out of three times, would you consider it faithful? If the paperboy skipped Thursdays and Sundays, would they be missed? If you didn't show up at work two or three times a week, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quit a few days now and then, would you excuse it and say, 'Oh, well, it works most of the time.' If your water heater greets you with cold water one or two mornings a week while you are in the shower, would it be faithful? If you miss several mortgage payments in a year's time, would your mortgage holder be pleased? If you miss worship and attend meetings only often enough to show you're interested, but not often enough to get involved, are you faithful?" (From Illustrations Unlimited, by James S. Hewett, p. 87, slightly adapted) DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!