

Reading: Hebrews 10:23-25

Topic: Why It Is Important
To Attend Church

INTRODUCTION: In this modern age of technology, one can be a part of _____ services using the internet, but nothing can _____ the actual in-person experience of being there in person.

I. GOD'S OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH:

A. The Place To Assemble:

1. God was present with His _____ as they journeyed through the wilderness, but He ordained that a house of worship be constructed, and it was called the sanctuary, where God would _____. Ex. 25:8
2. The tabernacle was called the House of the _____, and in the Hebrew language it was referred to as the tabernacle of _____. Ex. 29:43

B. The House of Prayer:

1. When the tabernacle was constructed and put in place, the _____ would go to the house of the Lord to pray and _____ the Lord. Ex. 33:7
2. Later on when the people of God had settled into the Promised Land, the _____ was constructed and it was dedicated to and blessed by God who placed His _____ there. I Kings 9:3
3. When Jesus _____ to the Temple during His ministry, He reinforced the function of the building and Stated that it was to be a house of _____. Mt. 21:13

II. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:

A. Meeting Together:

1. The church was born on the Day of Pentecost and on the _____ day it grew to 3,120 people who had obeyed the Gospel and became part of the _____. Acts 2:41
2. This growing _____ of believers met together in the temple where there was room for large numbers and also in smaller numbers in home _____ to worship, pray and evangelize. Acts 2:46,47

B. Growing & Spreading:

1. The early church began to _____ as evangelism took place with missionaries and workers taking the Gospel to many cities and communities and establishing _____ and leaders. Acts 13:5, 14:1
2. The synagogue was the meeting _____ until persecution drove the new believers out where they would meet in _____ or public places until a meeting place could be found. Acts 18:7,8,11
3. Churches were growing and established and pastors or _____ were ordained to lead the church as shepherds leading the _____ of God. Titus 1:5, I Pt. 5:1-3

III. THE NEED TO ASSEMBLE:

A. God's Command:

1. The Word of God gives a clear instruction on the need to assemble with the _____ of Christ on a regular basis, and to not abandon our attendance at the _____ of God. Heb. 10:24,25
2. We have experienced the process of using technology as a _____ of having church together but it cannot replace the actual gathering together of the _____ of God to worship and pray.

B. Seven Reasons To Attend Church In Person:

1. To be _____ in corporate worship – Ps. 134:1,2
2. To encourage _____ in the Body of Christ – I Cor. 14:26
3. To receive edification and _____ that flows through the Body of Christ to strengthen each member and to heal and encourage people who have been in the _____ spiritually. I Cor. 12:25-27
4. To state publicly my priorities in _____ - If I can go to the _____, to work, to school, on vacation, etc., then why can I not go to the House of God?
5. To become _____ and who doesn't want to be _____? Ps. 122:1
6. To encourage the _____ who pray and prepare to _____ to those who come to the House of God – the pastors, the teachers, the music ministry, the ushers, etc.
7. To receive and to _____ through the laying on of _____ in prayer. Mk. 16:17,18

CONCLUSION: There are places in the world today where fellow believers risk their _____ to be able to gather together and _____ the Lord in person, so why would we who still have the freedom not take advantage of the opportunity while we still have it?