

WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH?

Discovering God's Design for His People

HEBREWS 10:24-25



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Why Should I Go to Church?

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"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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." — Hebrews 10:24–25

Introduction

Many people sincerely ask, *"Do I really have to go to church to be a Christian?"* Others say, *"I can worship God just as well at home."* Some have been hurt by churches in the past, while others simply struggle to understand why gathering with other believers is so important.

These are honest questions, and they deserve biblical answers.

The Bible teaches that salvation is not earned by attending church. We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. No building can save us, no denomination can save us, and no amount of religious activity can save us. Only Jesus Christ saves.

Yet after God saves us, He places us into something He calls **the body of Christ**. Christianity is never presented in Scripture as an isolated, individual experience. God designed His people to worship together, learn together, pray together, encourage one another, and grow together.

The church is not merely a place to attend. It is God's family. It is Christ's body. It is God's primary means of teaching, strengthening, correcting, and preparing believers for eternity.

As our world becomes increasingly confused and spiritually dark, faithful church attendance is becoming more—not less—important. Hebrews tells us that we should gather together **"so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** As the return of Christ draws nearer, our need for biblical preaching, Christian fellowship, and mutual encouragement only increases.

I. God Never Intended Christians to Live Alone

One of the first things we discover in Scripture is that God has al-

ways worked through a people rather than isolated individuals.

In the Old Testament He called Israel to gather together for worship, instruction, and the reading of His law. In the New Testament He established His church through the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost.

Immediately after three thousand people were converted, notice what happened.

Acts 2:42

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

These new believers did not simply go home with a Bible and attempt to live for God on their own. They immediately became part of a community of believers.

Notice four characteristics of the early church:

- They learned together.
 - They worshiped together.
 - They prayed together.
- They shared life together.

This was not an optional activity. It became the normal pattern of Christian living.

Many people today speak of having a "personal relationship with Jesus." While that expression contains an important truth, the New Testament also teaches that our relationship with Christ naturally connects us to His people.

When God saves us, He not only adopts us into His family, He joins us to every other member of that family.

Just as a newborn child naturally belongs in a family, a newborn Christian naturally belongs in the church.

II. The Church Feeds Our Souls Through God's Word

Jesus declared:

John 6:63

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Notice the connection Jesus makes between His words and spiritual life.

Our physical bodies require food every day. Without nourishment we become weak, unhealthy, and eventually die.

Our spiritual lives are no different.

God's Word is spiritual food.

Jesus even referred to Himself as the Bread of Life.

Just as Israel gathered fresh manna every morning, Christians need continual nourishment from God's Word.

This certainly includes personal Bible reading, but God also designed public teaching and preaching to nourish His people.

Throughout the New Testament, believers regularly gathered to hear the Scriptures explained and applied.

God never intended Christians to survive on occasional spiritual meals.

Healthy Christians develop a consistent appetite for God's Word.

That appetite is strengthened every time faithful believers gather around the preaching and teaching of Scripture.

The Christian who regularly feeds on God's Word becomes stronger, wiser, more discerning, and more spiritually mature.

III. God Uses Preaching to Transform Lives

Some people underestimate preaching.

They view sermons as lectures or motivational speeches.

The Bible presents something entirely different.

Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 1:21

"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

God could have chosen many methods to communicate His truth.

Instead, He chose preaching.

When biblical preaching is empowered by the Holy Ghost, something supernatural happens.

Faith grows.

Conviction comes.

Hearts are changed.

Lives are transformed.

Even mature believers never outgrow their need to hear the preaching of God's Word.

Paul told the Roman Christians:

"God... is able to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ." (Romans 16:25)

The same gospel that brings us to Christ continues strengthening us throughout our Christian walk.

Every sermon becomes another opportunity for God to shape us into the image of Christ.

We never graduate from needing God's Word.

We simply continue growing deeper in our understanding and obedience.

IV. Church Protects Us Spiritually

Hebrews 10:24–25

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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."

One of the greatest misunderstandings about church attendance is the idea that it exists merely to fulfill a religious obligation. In reality, God established the church as one of His primary means of protecting His people spiritually.

The Christian life is not lived on a playground—it is lived on a battlefield. From the moment we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, we enter into a spiritual conflict. The apostle Peter warned believers:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roar-

ing lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

— 1 Peter 5:8

Notice that Satan is portrayed as a lion seeking prey. Lions rarely attack the center of the herd. They look for the one that has wandered away, the one that is isolated, weak, distracted, or vulnerable.

The same principle is true spiritually.

One of Satan's favorite strategies is isolation.

He whispers thoughts such as:

"Nobody understands you."

"You don't need church."

"You can worship God just as well by yourself."

"You're too busy this week."

"Missing once won't matter."

Over time, one missed service becomes several. Prayer becomes less frequent. Bible reading becomes inconsistent. Fellowship with believers slowly disappears. Before long, the person who once burned with passion for God finds himself spiritually weak and wondering what happened.

Rarely does anyone wake up one morning and decide to walk away from God. More often, spiritual decline happens one small compromise at a time.

That is why Hebrews commands believers not to forsake assembling together. God knows something we often forget—we need each other.

Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd and His people as sheep. Sheep are not designed to survive alone. They depend upon the shepherd for guidance and protection, but they also benefit from remaining with the flock.

A lone sheep quickly becomes vulnerable.

Likewise, Christians flourish when they remain connected to God's people.

The local church provides spiritual encouragement, sound teaching, loving correction, and accountability. Our culture often views accountability as something negative, but Scripture presents it as a gift.

A loving pastor, faithful friends, and mature believers can often recognize spiritual dangers before we do.

Sometimes they encourage us.

Sometimes they comfort us.

Sometimes they lovingly correct us.

Proverbs reminds us:

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

— Proverbs 27:6

There are moments when we all need someone to lovingly remind us of God's truth.

Accountability is not about controlling people.

It is about protecting people.

Just as guardrails on a mountain road restrict where a car can travel but ultimately save lives, biblical accountability helps keep believers safely on the path God has prepared.

God never intended His children to fight alone.

He placed us in His family because He knows that together we are stronger than we are by ourselves.

V. Your Faithfulness Encourages Others

Many Christians underestimate the influence of simply showing up.

They assume no one notices whether they are present or absent.

The truth is exactly the opposite.

Every faithful believer contributes something to the atmosphere of a church service.

Sometimes your greatest ministry is simply being there.

Your presence communicates faithfulness.

Your worship encourages others to worship.

Your prayers strengthen those around you.

Your smile may be exactly what a discouraged visitor needed that day.

The writer of Hebrews tells believers to "**consider one another.**"

Christianity constantly shifts our focus away from ourselves and toward others.

Instead of asking,

"What did I get out of church today?"

perhaps we should ask,

"Who did God allow me to encourage today?"

There may be a new convert watching how mature Christians worship.

There may be a struggling believer wondering if anyone truly loves them.

There may be a visitor attending church for the very first time.

You may never realize the impact your faithfulness has upon another person's life.

The apostle Paul compared the church to a body.

When one part functions properly, the entire body benefits.

When one part suffers, the entire body feels the loss.

Your absence affects more people than you may realize.

Conversely, your consistent faithfulness builds confidence in others.

Paul instructed Timothy:

"Be thou an example of the believers..."

— 1 Timothy 4:12

Notice that he did not merely say, "Teach believers."

He said, "Be an example."

People learn from examples every day.

One faithful saint can inspire an entire generation simply through consistent devotion to God.

There are elderly saints who may no longer preach sermons or teach classes, yet their faithful attendance continues preaching every single week.

Without saying a word they declare,

"Jesus is still worthy."

"God has been faithful."

"I'm still serving Him."

That testimony speaks louder than many sermons.

Never underestimate what God can do through ordinary faithfulness.

VI. Your Example Shapes Your Family

One of the greatest responsibilities God gives parents is to model genuine Christianity before their children.

Children certainly hear what we say.

But they remember what we do.

Joshua boldly declared:

"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

— Joshua 24:15

Notice that Joshua did not merely make a personal commitment.

He established the direction of his household.

Every family develops priorities.

Some organize life around sports.

Others around careers.

Others around entertainment.

Christian families intentionally organize life around Christ.

Children quickly discover what truly matters.

If parents consistently make church optional whenever something else comes along, children eventually conclude that God is optional too.

However, when children observe parents who joyfully make worship a priority, they learn that serving God is not merely something we talk about—it is how we live.

This principle extends beyond children.

Unbelieving spouses watch.

Extended family members watch.

Neighbors watch.

Friends watch.

The apostle Paul described believers as living letters:

"Ye are our epistle... known and read of all men."

— 2 Corinthians 3:2

Whether we realize it or not, people read our lives every day.

Our faithfulness quietly communicates what we truly believe.

This does not mean we should attend church merely to impress others.

Rather, because we genuinely love Christ, our priorities naturally become visible.

Sometimes an unbelieving husband or wife may never read the Bible.

But they will observe your consistency.

They will notice your kindness.

They will see your faithfulness.

Over time, those quiet examples often speak more powerfully than many conversations.

Every parent is preaching a sermon each week.

The question is not whether we are preaching.

The question is what message our lives are proclaiming.

VII. Every Believer Has a Place to Serve

Many people view church primarily as a place where they receive.

Certainly we receive.

We receive teaching.

We receive encouragement.

We receive fellowship.

We receive spiritual strength.

But receiving is only part of God's design.

The New Testament teaches that every believer has been given something to contribute.

Paul explains this beautifully in 1 Corinthians 12 by comparing the church to the human body.

A body contains many different members.

The eye cannot do the work of the hand.

The hand cannot do the work of the foot.

Each member has a different purpose, yet every member is essential.

The same is true within the church.

Not everyone preaches.

Not everyone teaches.

Not everyone sings.

Not everyone leads.

Yet every believer has been given gifts through which God desires to bless His people.

Some quietly pray.

Some encourage.

Some show hospitality.

Some work behind the scenes.

Some visit the sick.

Some disciple new believers.

Others faithfully clean the building, operate equipment, prepare lessons, greet visitors, or perform dozens of unseen acts of service.

Much of the greatest ministry in any church happens where no one is applauding.

God notices every act of faithful service.

Paul reminds us:

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."

— 1 Corinthians 12:4

The church becomes strongest when every believer discovers his or her place within the body of Christ.

Serving also transforms us.

People often discover that they grow spiritually much faster after

they begin serving others.

Instead of merely consuming spiritual blessings, they become channels through which God blesses someone else.

Jesus Himself declared:

"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

— Matthew 20:28

If our Lord came to serve, His followers should gladly do the same.

The church is not merely somewhere we attend.

It is somewhere we belong.

It is somewhere we grow.

It is somewhere we serve.

VIII. Why Gathering Together Matters Even More Today

The writer of Hebrews gives an interesting reason for faithful attendance:

"...and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

The closer we come to the return of Jesus Christ, the more important gathering together becomes.

Our world is changing rapidly.

Truth is increasingly questioned.

Right and wrong are constantly being redefined.

The Bible warned that this would happen.

Isaiah wrote:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil."

— Isaiah 5:20

Paul warned Timothy that perilous times would come.

Jesus Himself warned repeatedly about deception in the last days.

False teachers are everywhere.

Through television, podcasts, social media, YouTube, TikTok, and countless other platforms, Christians are exposed to more teaching than any previous generation.

Unfortunately, not everything labeled "Christian" is biblical.

This makes faithful participation in a Bible-believing church more important than ever.

God has given pastors and teachers to help believers grow in truth and recognize error.

The local church provides stability in a culture filled with confusion.

It reminds us that God's Word has not changed even though society constantly changes.

The church also reminds us that we are not living merely for this present world.

Every service points our attention toward eternity.

Every communion service reminds us of the cross.

Every worship service reminds us of God's greatness.

Every sermon prepares us for the day we will stand before Christ.

As the coming of the Lord draws nearer, believers should become more committed—not less committed—to gathering with God's people.

Now is not the time to drift away.

Now is the time to draw nearer to God.

Conclusion

The Bible never teaches that attending church earns salvation.

We are saved only by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, expressed in obedient response to His gospel.

However, once God saves us, He lovingly places us into His family.

Those who truly love Christ naturally grow to love His people.

The church is not a man-made invention.

It is God's design.

It is where believers worship together.

It is where we learn God's Word.

It is where we encourage one another.

It is where we discover our gifts.

It is where we grow into spiritual maturity.

It is where we prepare for the return of our Lord.

No church is perfect because no church is made up of perfect people.

Yet Christ still loves His church.

He gave Himself for it.

He purchased it with His own blood.

If Jesus loved the church enough to die for it, then surely we should love it enough to faithfully be part of it.

One day, the trumpet will sound.

The Church will be caught away to meet the Lord.

Until that glorious day, may we remain faithful—faithful to Christ, faithful to His Word, and faithful to His church.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together... and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." — Hebrews 10:24–

25

A Prayer About Being Part of the Church

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for loving me and for giving me a place in Your church.

Help me understand that I was not meant to walk with You alone.

Give me a desire to gather with other believers, to hear Your Word, to worship You, and to grow in my relationship with You.

Help me not only to receive from the church, but also to become a faithful part of it. Show me how I can encourage others, serve others, pray for others, and use what You have given me for Your kingdom.

When I am discouraged, hurt, busy, or tempted to withdraw, remind me of the importance of remaining connected to Your people.

Give me a love for Your Word, a love for Your presence, and a love for Your church.

Help me to grow in faith, fellowship, worship, service, and obedience as I follow You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The North Jersey United Pentecostal Church

We would love to have you join us!

Whether you are searching for a church home, beginning your walk with God, or simply desire to learn more about Jesus Christ and His

Word, there is a place for you here.

Come experience heartfelt worship, biblical preaching and teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the presence of God.

WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15 AM

MIDWEEK WORSHIP & THE WORD — ENGLISH

Wednesday • 8:00 PM

SERVICIO EN ESPAÑOL Viernes • 8:00 PM

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Watch our services and Bible teaching on YouTube:

YouTube — @NJUPCINC

We hope to see you soon!