

Thoughts on Assembling

by Wayne Goff

Christians, following New Testament examples and instructions, are to assemble together to teach and learn God's word, to edify and be edified, and to worship Him. It should be their desire and aim to please God in these gatherings. In so far as they are able, they should prepare:

1. **Their schedules**, so that they will be able to make these assemblies. They should not miss them for trivial, mundane things.
2. **Their bodies**, so that they will not be too tired or too sleepy to stay awake, and be alert, and participate.
3. **Their minds**, so that they can lay aside thoughts of other things and focus upon the things being done and said and upon the things they should be doing and saying. Their thoughts should be centered upon God, upon His will, upon the purposes for which they have come together. They must be certain that as they honor God with their lips, their hearts also honor God — rather than being far from Him (Matt. 15:8). If they have Bible lessons to study, then they prepare their minds by having those lessons thoroughly studied — *before* assembling.

When they assemble together, Christians should arrive *before* the appointed time to begin. They should be in their places and ready to start — on time. None will do anything to distract others or to detract from the solemnity and seriousness of the occasion. Reverence for God, respect for His word, and honor for His Son will be had within and manifested without. Please read Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 27-29; 14:33, 40.

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