

When Christians Assemble

by Bill Crews

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill Crews' sermon last Sunday morning contained the material published below from notes I took from his sermon. Faithful attendance has become a great problem in the current pandemic, but faithful attendance has been a recurring issue throughout the existence of the Lord's church. The five points Bill gave in his lesson are **fundamental truths**, but profound in their meaning and application. The points are published here for our members and Christians everywhere to consider! Until we improve our attendance, the church will continue to suffer here and everywhere! {You can hear this sermon on YouTube or our web site: www.roanridge.org}

What do the following Scriptures have in common? Acts 2:42, Acts 11:26, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, 1 Corinthians 11:18-34 (the phrase "*coming together*" is found five times in this chapter), **Hebrews 10:25** (note that "*exhorting one another*" is joined with "*assembling together*." You have probably noticed that *every single passage* had to do with **gathering together**. Here are five points that are proven in the given Scriptures:

1. Christians are to assemble, or come together.

Acts 2:42 teaches us that the first church had to learn from the apostles what to do in the church and as the church. Worship, honoring Jesus, and edifying one another are some of the reasons for assembling. "*Fellowship*" (**joint participation**) is practiced in the five acts of worship: singing, praying, giving, Lord's Supper, and teaching or preaching.

2. Christians are to do so for specific reasons.

Acts 11:26 says "... And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were **gathered together with the church, and taught much people, and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**" Paul could do the **preaching**. Barnabas could do the **exhorting**. Barnabas is commended as a great "**exhorter**," and we need more of that today. It involves appealing, reasoning, and encouraging people. **Hebrews 10:25** tells us to exhort one another when we assemble. If you don't assemble, then you cannot exhort!

3. Christians are to conduct themselves properly in these assemblies.

We must assemble *willingly, cheerfully, not grudgingly or of necessity* (see **2 Cor. 9:6-7**). What the Bible says we must do in **giving**, we must also do in singing, praying, listening, learning and communing. Think of the lengths and efforts we make to attend a sporting event. We should expend even greater effort to assemble with the saints.

4. Christians are to prepare themselves for the assemblies.

We are to prepare ourselves for Bible classes and preaching and conduct ourselves properly. We should look forward to each and every assembly. We are to prepare our bodies with proper rest. We are to prepare our minds with *meditation* and think upon *spiritual* things. Be sure that you are "on praying terms with God," which means you conduct yourselves as you profess so that God will hear your prayers. See **Proverbs 23:7; Psalm 66:18**.

5. Christians should accomplish the specific reasons for which they assemble.

How much do we derive from the Bible classes and sermons? You get as much out of worship as you prepare yourself to get. Getting ready for church involves much more than just getting dressed up. The most important things to me in life are **spiritual!** Jesus Christ was crucified by those He loved even while they hated and despised Him! Can you not find in your heart the love for God for what He has done for you?!