

Nov. 10, 2013

## Why Go to Church? Hebrews 10:19-25

### All Stand and Read Scripture

#### **Hebrews 10:19-25**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

#### **A New and Living Way**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a <sup>[a]</sup>sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

### Prayer

#### CLARIFICATION:

I would like to make a clarification on something from last week's message.

In Romans 8:28, **God promises that "all things work together for GOOD for those that love the Lord"**.

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

**I gave an illustration about a Christian student who has having trouble with his finances and needed to take a morning class so he could work in the afternoon to earn money to help pay his bills. It happened that the morning class became full, so the computer put him in an afternoon class. This meant that he would not be able to work in the afternoon and it was going to put him further behind on his bills. But he decided to attend the**

afternoon class. It turned out that a very attractive girl also attended that class who had a wealthy father. They dated and eventually married and her dad paid for all of his school bills!

So, all things worked together for good, right?

So I asked, "Is this what this verse means"?

I stated, "Well, I hate to tell you, but the answer is NO". That answer can be right or wrong depending on how you define the word "GOOD".

Let's start by how we (in the world) normally would define GOOD.

For most of us GOOD means:

**Financial Gain,  
Material Gain,  
Public Recognition,  
and Improved Health.**

If we are defining these as "GOOD" and expect one of them to happen every time we experience a rough time in our life, then the answer is still NO. God has not promised that every time something bad happens, we are going to make a buck out of it. He does **not** promise that every time we experience hardship, we will become:

**Healthy,  
Wealthy,  
and Wise.**

But, we DO know from verse 28 that "all things work together for good for those who love God".

This is God's promise to Christians ("for those who love God").

So we **KNOW** that if the Christian student was a Christian, that ALL of his life experiences as a Christian worked together for good as defined in Romans 8:29. "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son".

**What does the word GOOD actually mean?**

The GOOD that is promised to us, as Christians, is that ALL of our experiences, both good and bad, will all be used by God to conform us to be more like Christ.

God is not as concerned about giving us what we on earth consider good things (even though He does give us many good things). God is more concerned with making us good children, making us good people. That is what He means in verse 29 to “be conformed to the image of His Son.”

## **INTRODUCTION:**

John F. Kennedy once said, “And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

This morning, I would like to rephrase that statement as to church attendance.

“And so my fellow Christians, ask not **only** what your church can do for you; ask what you can do for Christ’s church”.

## **BODY:**

### **I. Christ Established the Church through His Death on the Cross.**

#### **Hebrews 10:19-22**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

#### **A New and Living Way**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a <sup>la</sup>sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

In Old Testament times, mankind had to offer blood sacrifices of animals for their sins. Christ died on the cross to be the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (both Jew and Gentile) once and for all and he rose again on the third day. Jesus became the great priest over His church. We no longer have to offer animal sacrifices. Christ became our permanent sacrifice.

## Colossians 1:15-23

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> [a]He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For [b]by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He [c]is before all things, and in Him all things [d]hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For [e]it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the [f]fullness to dwell in Him, <sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in [g]heaven.

<sup>21</sup> And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in [h]the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, [i]was made a [j]minister.

Through Christ's death on the cross, we can be forgiven of our sins. God made Christ the head of the Church. Those of us in this congregation are a part of God's church. The qualification is that we continue in the faith and not stray from the hope of the gospel.

As a Christian, we are part of God's church as long as we remain faithful. So why should we attend church?

God knows that we need repetition in our lives. He uses that repetition to draw us closer to him.

We attend church to be encouraged in our faith.

So what can we expect to gain by attending church?

## **II. What We Can Expect to Gain by attending Church.**

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

**A scripture that I have heard over and over in my mind is “Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is”.**

**This is a command for the Christian!**

### **Hebrews 10:23-25**

#### **New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

***23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.***

1. From fellowship you can expect to be encouraged by God’s people.
2. From fellowship you can be stimulated to love and do good deeds.
2. From the study of God’s word you can expect to be spoken to by the Lord.
3. From communion we can be reminded of God’s great love for us by sending his only Son to die on the cross for our sins.
4. From worship you can expect to sense the presence of the Lord.
5. Through prayer you can expect God to be at work in your life.
6. Through singing, you can praise God.

God will use this experience to conform us to the image of Christ. We learned last week that the GOOD that is promised to us, as Christians, is that ALL of our experiences, both good and bad, will all be used by God to conform us to be more like Christ.

As we become more like Christ:

We will humble ourselves more fully to God.

We will accept Jesus in our lives as our **true** Lord and Savior.

We will ask the Lord to “Mold me and make me after thy will”.

We will patiently listen for God’s direction in our lives.

Everything that happens in this world is for one reason and one reason only and that is to bring praise to our wonderful God. That includes the good things and the bad things that have occurred in your life. God works all things together for good. If you are a Christian, you can count on that. Ultimate good is that you become like the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason God wants you to become like Christ, is so He can be glorified through your life.

### **III. What Can You Do for Your Church.**

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

Have you ever watched **ants** at work?

- Ant carrying a heavy load.
- Ant carrying food.
- Ant being a construction worker.
- Ants being a nurse and babysitter. Talk about a nursery!
- Ant being a Warrior. A single ant will attack a human to protect the colony.

**This is how the church works with each other. Each of us has different talents.**

#### **Romans 12:4-10**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are

one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

<sup>6</sup> Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, <sup>[a]</sup>according to the proportion of his faith; <sup>7</sup> if <sup>[b]</sup>service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with <sup>[c]</sup>liberality; he who <sup>[d]</sup>leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The church or body of Christ is made up of individuals. This congregation is a small segment of Christ's church. We each have different talents and God expects us to use our talents for him. He wants to guide you.

**“Not my will, but thine be done.”**

As John the Baptist said: **“I must decrease and He must increase”**

God will not force us to do anything against our will. **BUT** The scriptures state that **“He that knoweth to do good but doeth it not, to him it is SIN”**.

**Matthew 25:40-46**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>40</sup> The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.’

<sup>41</sup> ‘Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not <sup>[a]</sup>take care of You?’ <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ <sup>46</sup> These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

So what can you do for the church? Become active. Use the talents God gave you for His good.

You can be the encourager that is promised to be in the church for other Christians.

You can be the Song Leader.

You can be the Teacher.

You can be a church leader.

You can be a disciple for Christ and reach out to others in the community.

Pray to God to mold you, make you more like Christ.

Pray to God to give you direction, and then patiently listen for God's voice to let you know His will in your life.

**“And so my fellow Christians, ask not only what your church can do for you; ask what you can do for Christ's church”.**

### **FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT:**

Everything that happens in this world is for one reason and one reason only and that is to bring praise to our wonderful God. That includes the good things and the bad things that have occurred in your life. God works all things together for good. If you are a Christian, you can count on that. Ultimate good is that you become like the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason God wants you to become like Christ, is so He can be glorified through your life.

Being a Christian and loving God goes hand in hand. We are told that if we love God, we will keep His commandments. One of His commandments is to “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is”.



## **John 14:15-21**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

### **Role of the Spirit**

<sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father, and He will give you another <sup>[a]</sup>Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There will be a congregational vote next week to accept me as your minister. I would also like to start a Bible study. Consider what would be a good time.

### **The Family of God**

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.