

## Hebrew 10:24, 25

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through 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 true heart in full assurance of faith, with 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 stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

So what is forsaking or neglecting.

## 1 Samuel 8:

<sup>8</sup> When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah <sup>5</sup> and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." <sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup> According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

## 2 Peter 2:12-16

<sup>12</sup> But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, <sup>13</sup> suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions,<sup>l</sup> while they feast with you. <sup>14</sup> They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! <sup>15</sup> Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, <sup>16</sup> but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

There are more passages but you can see from these that it is a serious matter

-So how does this apply to our assembling?

Let's ask ourselves questions,

-Are we forsaking or neglecting the assembling of ourselves by missing once, barring illness?

-What if I go to Disney Land instead of Church? It's only this once.....

-What if I go to Disney Land on Saturday and stay up too late and I don't wake up in time for church on Sunday Morning?

-What if I have to work, do I quit my job to make it to church? After all it says that if a man doesn't work, neither shall he eat.

**-So now that I have everyone wiggling in their seats and shooting eyeball laser darts at me, lets look at what this passage is really about**

# Let's look at the underlying problem of ATTITUDE.

-Just because a person is not here on Sunday morning or evening does that mean their wrong or sinning?

How about Wednesday night or classes during the week?

-Just because they are here does that make them right?

The Jews had the law and didn't do it or added to it, the Gentiles had the law written on their hearts and did the will of God.

-Generally when folks aren't attending they aren't doing the other things they should be either.

Would you all agree with this generality?

Les brought up the example of the elderly man that knew about his church family, even though he wasn't there. Is this more the exception or the norm.

-Most people who aren't attending to this level aren't right with God.

Think about David, when did his troubles start? When he was attending the battle, being the king or when he stayed home?

-Paul has been discussing this topic of Luke warm in the Wednesday night class, the whole Hot or cold but since you are Luke warm I will vomit you out thought. Rev. 3

-So the question: Just because you're here does that make you right?

**You know, the church building has magical powers. It can make you right with God just by being here.**

**Just because you're at the football game, doesn't make you a player.**

This makes me think of Judas Iscariot He walked with Christ, was one of his disciples and wasn't right, or Jonah, was a prophet of God and he never really got it.

-Note that we have influence when people are here and or at Bible studies. I've been here and not engaged in the lesson, but gained the encouragement after the service was over, just by talking to my brothers and sisters.

# So, what about our attitude toward those that don't attend?

-Do we pray for them?

I think this is the least we can do for them

Think about the prodigal son in Luke 11, do you think that his father didn't pray for his son?

-Do we call, visit, or send cards.

Even when it's not very convenient for us

**James 1:26, 27**

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

So when are we supposed to call or visit? When it's convenient for us or when they are being afflicted?

On January 1<sup>st</sup> around 6 I went out to my car and the battery was dead, and not just dead but need a new one dead. So realizing that I had to go to work the next day, I hopped into Karen's car and found a store that was open and purchased and installed it that night.

-Now do we have that sort of attitude toward those that are afflicted or struggling?

-Do we love them even though they might not be lovable with their actions and attitude?

**Romans 5: 6-10**

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall

we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Did God send his son when we were lovable or unlovable?

-Do we even notice that their missing either because we were so caught up in our lives or our friends that we don't even notice the sporadic attendance, or don't take the time to get to know them?

**Mat. 18:10-14**

### **The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

<sup>10</sup> "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup> What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup> So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Really it's only 1% in the business world a 99% retention rate is astounding.

God doesn't think that any should perish.

-When is it easiest for us to attend?

When there are people there that really care about you, or when there are superficial people who shake your hand, smile at you, but don't really care about the details.

(The half hearted praise that Paul talked about on Wed. night.)

My favorite looking good there Mr. Andersen, when you were up all night with a sick kid and drug yourself out of bed put on some wrinkled cloths and walked in before the 1<sup>st</sup> song was led. Thanks for the compliment but you can keep it.

(A preacher who shakes your hand and pulls you out the door at the same time)