

Attendance

Faithful, Regular, Steadfast

Introduction

1. **God's Word has a lot to say about attendance – coming together into one place.**

1 Corinthians 11:17-18, 20, 33-34

Hebrews 10:25

- A. **The church is to come together upon the first day of the week.**

Acts 20:7 Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

- B. **To come together upon the first day of the week means every first day of the week as to remember the Sabbath Day meant every Sabbath Day.**

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

Reasons for the Church to Come Together

1. There are several reasons God has assigned for the church to come together on the first day of the week.

A. To break bread – observing the Lord's Supper.

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1) To partake and to wait for one another.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

2) This is not the only reason:

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

B. To lay by in store - to give of our means

1) In store (Into the treasury)

C. To sing praises to God and to teach and admonish others.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Hebrews 2:12 saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU."

D. To follow the example of Acts 2:42:**1) As all the events of Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, were on the Lord's Day.**

Leviticus 23:15-16 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. (16) Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

a) Continued in the Apostle's Doctrine, teaching.

b) Fellowship (singing, giving)

c) Breaking of Bread

d) Prayer

- **Note: only two of these acts of worship are limited to the Lord's Day: The Lord's Supper and Giving**

Why Some Fail to Meet on the Lord's Day

1. Possible fear of persecution

Hebrews 10:23-39

Acts 20:22-24 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, **not knowing the things that will happen to me there**, (23) except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. (24) **But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God**.

2. Unbelief

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you **an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God**;

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; **but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it**.

James 2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works**.

3. No time, or too many worldly interests

Luke 14:16-20

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, **having loved this present world**, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

4. Feeling mistreated**Matthew 18:15-17****5. Services are dull****1 Timothy 4:12-16**

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**"

Luke 14:24 For I say to you that **none of those** men who were invited shall taste my supper.

Must One Attend ALL the Services of the Church?**1. Let's think seriously about this based on what the Bible says:****Hebrews 10:25-26**

A. "Forsake" – 1) To quit or leave entirely; to desert; to abandon; to depart from. **2)** To abandon; to renounce; to reject. **3)** To leave; to withdraw from; to fail

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to **be ready for every good work,**

Matthew 6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Psalms 122:1 **I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."**

Conclusion

1. **We can clearly see that we are obligated, as God's dear children to be where God wants us to be.**

A. **We must be determined to make Him our priority in life and He will be if we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).**

2. **God has given us four mandatory appointments:**

A. **The Lord's Day**

Acts 20:7

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

B. **Death**

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

C. **Judgment**

Acts 17:31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

D. **Eternity**

Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

3. **Have you been faithful in all aspects of your life?**

Mark 12:30 and you shall love the lord your god with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.....'

