Forsake Not The Assembly

Heb. 10:19-27

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Heb. 10:19-27, "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*"

1. The Hebrew writer starts off by speaking of the conversion process.

2. Jesus consecrated by His flesh a "new and living way" for all of us; thus:

   a) We have "boldness to enter into the holiest" (v. 19). We can go directly to God in prayer through Jesus.

   b) This occurred when the "veil" – His flesh – was torn (v. 20).

3. It is our duty to draw near to this "new and living way" by:

   a) Having "our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience" (v. 22) – i.e. repentance. We desire an honest change of life within our hearts.

   b) Having "our bodies washed with pure water" (v. 22) – i.e. baptism. Our past sins are washed away.

   c) Holding fast "the profession of our faith without wavering" (v. 23) – From our baptism we want to be faithful until death.

   d) "Provoking unto love and to good works" (v. 24) – admonition. When we see others faltering along the way we do what we can to assist them back.

   e) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (v. 25). Holding fast in doing this is crucial in our maintaining faithfulness to God.

4. The reason for not forsaking the assembly is seen in Hebrews 10:26-27.

a) Heb. 10:26-27, "*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*"

b) Forsake – leave, abandon. Absence because of sickness is not forsaking the assembly; but wanting to play golf instead of attending worship service is.

c) Our faithful attendance keeps us from rejecting the truth.

d) Our faithful attendance keeps us from the fiery indignation of judgment.

e) There is an eternity in Hell for those who intentionally remain in sin.

B. Today I want to focus on one part of this conversion process as seen in Hebrews 10:19-27 – "*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*".

C. When we forsake the assembly we are forsaking God, one another, and ourselves.

II. Early Christians assembled <u>EVERY</u> Lord's Day for worship.

A. Acts 2:42, "*And they continued <u>stedfastly</u> in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*"

1. The church was "steadfast" (to continue all the time) in assembling together.

2. They assembled at every opportunity.

a) The church in Troas. Acts 20:7, "*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*"

b) The church in Corinth (1 Cor. 11; 16:2) are seen assembling on the first day of the week. 1 Cor. 11: (read the entire chapter on your own). 1 Cor. 16:2, "*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*"

III. Let us now consider several reasons why we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together:

A. Choosing not to assemble with the saints demonstrates contempt for spiritual things.

1. Rom. 8:1, 6, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ... For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*"

2. If one chooses not to assemble with the saints to worship would you say they are spiritually minded or carnally minded?

a) Gal. 6:7-8, "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*"

3. If Christianity was illegal, and you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

B. Choosing not to assemble with the saints involves choosing not to do that which is known to be good.

1. James 4:17, "*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*"

a) Would you agree that those who chose to worship is a making a good choice?

C. Choosing not to assemble with the saints is choosing not to give or receive needed encouragement in living the Christian life.

1. Hebrews 10:24-25, "*<u>And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:</u> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but <u>exhorting one another:</u> and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*"

2. We encourage each other in many ways, but one of the most important ways is by our faithful attendance.

3. Faithful attendance helps prevent others from falling away from the Lord.

D. Choosing not to assemble with the saints is a violation of an explicit command.

1. Heb. 10:25-26, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*"

2. We need to remember what sin is.

a) 1 John 3:4, "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*"

E. Choosing not to assemble with the saints contributes to ignorance.

1. Hosea 4:6, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*"

2. 2 Pet. 3:18, "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.*"

3. Ignorance is one of the things that crucified our Lord.

a) Acts 3:17, "*And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.*"

1) Wot – understand.

4. Three 15 year old boys – one attends worship two times a year (Easter and Christmas), the second once a month, and the third every week. Notice what happens if they learn just one new spiritual truth each time they attend:

a) Boy 1 – year 1 (2), year 10 (20), year 55 (110)

b) Boy 2 – year 1 (12), year 10 (120), year 55 (660)

c) Boy 3 – year 1 (52), year 10 (520), year 55 (2, 860)

5. Dear friends, attending worship does make a difference.

F. Choosing not to assemble with the saints sets a bad example.

1. 1 Tim. 4:12, "*Let no man despise thy youth; <u>but be thou an example of the believers,</u> in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*"

2. Our example either brings people closer to the Lord or pushes them farther away.

a) Rom. 14:7, "*For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*"

G. Choosing not to assemble with the saints is a failure to let one's light shine.

1. Matt. 5:14-16, "*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*"

2. Are you dimming your Christian light? Has your light already out?

H. Choosing not to assemble with the saints demonstrates that one's priorities are not properly arranged.

1. Matt. 6:33, "*But seek ye **<u>first</u>** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

2. Do you really suppose you are seeking God's kingdom first when you would prefer to do something else [TV, fishing, etc.] than worship with the saints?

3. Choosing to work at a job that requires one to be absent from worship service to God is also forsaking by your priorities not being in order.

I. Choosing not to assemble with the saints is an affront to God.

1. By not attending you are telling God that He is really not all that important to you.

a) Matt. 22:37, "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*"

J. Choosing not to assemble with the saints would destroy the church from the face of the earth, if everyone did it.

1. If one member of the church can, as a matter of preference and choice, not assemble with the saints for worship without committing any sin – then two can. If 2 can, then 10 can. If 10 can, then 100 can. And if 100 can, all can.

2. If it is right for 1 to do it then it is right for all. But, of course, we are all commanded to assemble together, so it is **not** okay for even one to skip the assembly.

IV. Conclusion:

A. Please do not forsake the assembling of the saints.