

# DO WE REALLY UNDERSTAND?

By Keith Greer

One of the problems that seem to plague all churches is the Sunday evening and Wednesday Bible study attendance. Sunday morning attendance will always be pretty good, Sunday evening less, and Wednesday even less. Why? What is the answer?

When I was a young boy I can remember preachers really hitting Hebrews 10:25. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." I know some of my brethren say Sunday is the only day commanded, and nothing about meeting twice. Are they right?

For many years, I've understood that verse twenty-five must be kept in the context with the other thoughts of the chapter. Let us examine some of the surrounding passages.

Notice the "**let us**" in verses twenty- two through twenty-four.

"**Let us** draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."{Hebrews 10:22}

"**Let us** hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering..."{Hebrews 10:23}

"And **let us** consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."(Hebrews 10:24)

How do we accomplish these three commandments? The answer is in verse 25: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Do we really understand the need to assemble?

It will help us maintain a "pure heart" before God. When we assemble together, we worship God, sing, pray, and study God's word. Putting all this in our mind can only help us in maintaining the proper thoughts towards God.

"Holding fast", shows the need for the Christian to be steadfast. Does meeting with the saints help strengthen us for the daily struggles of life?

How do you "consider" your brethren when you are absent? Can you provoke them to do

"good works" by missing, when you could be here? Do you show love, concern, and the willingness to help them by missing these times together?

Notice verse twenty-six. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins," This passage is a powerful verse. Why? The decision of "forsaking the assembly" is a deliberate choice! One must make that choice, and then follow through with it. Thought has been given to the act—therefore it is willful action.

“Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?” {Hebrews 10:29}

How would you treat Christ if He came to your home? I believe you would fall over yourselves to extend him every kindness within your power. Can you imagine slapping Him, knocking Him down, and trampling on the blood He shed on the cross? No way! Never!!

Really? What do we do when the saints are meeting on Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, or for a Gospel meeting? Do we willfully stay home? We love Him, don't we? We love His children? Is this the way to show it?

If you are willing to give God only one hour per week, ask yourselves this question: Does God love only when it is convenient for Him? Do we really understand the need to assemble together? Dear brethren, the problem is not the attendance. The problem is the heart of the believer! How can anyone believe they will be a better, stronger and more uplifting part of the congregation by willfully failing to assemble with the saints? What if every member attended like you? Think about it? \*\*\*