



Hebrews 10:25

Let us Not Forsake Assembling Sun, July 27th 2008

Doing Poorly, but Feeling Good

Washington Post Article - According to the Washington think tank's annual Brown Center report on education, 6 percent of Korean eighth-graders surveyed expressed confidence in their math skills, compared with 39 percent of U.S. eighth-graders. But a respected international math assessment showed Koreans scoring far ahead of their peers in US

- For those taking the math test, was true/false – “I am good at math”
- In fact, United States in top of those who say “feel good” Korean’s low
- Simple thought – danger of having a wrong perception
- **James 1:22** – danger of deceiving ourselves 📖

Today...I have a question for you

- Question for you today: true/false – “I am a good churchgoing Christian”
- Some know not true...but not sure why – hope to help today
- I have a particular concern for those doing poorly/feeling good

First – tiny bit of context

- God has brought us to application section of Hebrews
- **Begins by summing up what talked about – what have in Christ**
 - Having access to throne through blood, new way
 - Having Jesus as High priest
 - Key – that you have these – if not, stop there – cannot apply
- **Gives us applications**
 - Lets us Draw near – highest, 1st call
 - Let us Hold Fast – cling to Him, unmovable
 - Let us Encourage one another – last study
 - Today’s message – really a sub thought – deeper

I. What is the Assembling together?

1. Is this church services? Yes/No

a. Honestly – that is most often how this verse is used....but is more

2. Assembling is Christians together

a. That is the idea of the word assembling – together, meeting together

3. Assembling is more than gathering

a. Easiest way is to picture this. Imagine buying a bicycle in box

b. Dump all the parts together in a pile – and they are gathered—not assembled

4. Assembling is real connection

a. Not just in the same place – but connecting together

b. Again – picture the bike – the pieces in active connection

c. For many Christians – isolate themselves (satan strategy)

d. Come to church late...and leave early, or quickly w/o connection – then you have not assembled. Today if happens to you – have not assembled

5. Assembling is Spiritual Connection

a. Not just any being together – rooted in v.24 – encourage one another

b. Word interesting – episynagogue – rooted in OT synagogue

6. Assembling is filling our part in body

a. Not just connected any which way –but in the right way

i) Picture the bike again. Not good if peddle is where seat s/b, sprocket where handle bars should be. There is a right fit for each part

b. **1 Cor 12:12,27**  **Eph 4:7-16** – specifically notice- each part doing its part

7. Assembling should happen Sunday

a. It can, it ought to happen here. Yet, can be here and not happen

8. Assembling should happen 1000 ways

a. Not limited to these walls and this time – as verse is often used

b. Connection with other Christians daily, weekly in so many ways

II. What is Forsaking Assembling?

1. Forsaking is Christian Isolation

- a. Just want you to see that is unbiblical, against God's plan – wrong
- b. Satan always seeks to draw us here...always


2. Forsaking is not something new

- a. Today there are those that avoid Christian fellowship- church
- b. Act as if it is something new...progressive...not – problem then too
- c. Not how we are designed – we are designed for connection
 - i) Lone ranger Christian is an abnormality

3. Forsaking will get worse toward end

- a. That is how I read it – that in the end...such pulling back – worse

4. Problem: doing poorly, feeling good

- a. Put to you that we are in the last days – is serious issue – undetected
- b. It is here....I am going to step on toes, make angry, disagree – fine
- c. **Most Christians today are So-So Christians.** 
 - i) What is that? First – Sunday Only Christians
 - ii) Jim, thought you weren't pressing the church service issue...
 - iii) Are telling us that we need Sunday night, Wednesday night...not bad
- d. **Point is deeper. Sad reality is this is only connection with Christians that is purposeful, spiritual most Christians have in a 7 day week – feel good**
 - i) In fact – if make it Sunday, feel they have done something huge
 - ii) Most not regular at that. If everyone who attends this church semi regularly shows up on the same Sunday...in trouble, not enough chairs
- e. **Consider in the weight of life. We spend 1½ hours here...maybe 2**
 - i) Is that a big sacrifice, commitment in your life
 - ii) Love God so much, so committed – give him 2 hours a week
 - iii) Compare to TV, Movies, Sports, Hobby
 - iv) 2 hour movie is nothing...regular. 2 hour church...hard
- f. **Consider church history**
 - i) Services – two or three on Sunday. Two prayer meetings, study
 - ii) Daily bible studies in homes – others attended
- g. **Some Object – Jim we are a busy generation – don't have time like before**
 - i) If thinking that...ask you, are you sure?
 - ii) Today – shorter work weeks, time saving devices like craze
 - iii) Yet – we have less time for God and assembling – more distracted

- h. **But hear me clearly – not just championing church. Is so much more**
 - i) Again. You could gather here every week – still not assemble

III. Why are we to be Assembling?

1. Missing is not a mortal sin

- a. If grew up Catholic – you know the Catholic church made this a sin
- b. Not true, not Biblical. That uses fear, guilt to produce good, can't
- c. If with us last time – talked about at length. Free in Christ, no bondage
- d. This is not to be bondage...but liberty, freedom

2. Need provoked to love & good works

- a. No longer driven by fear, guilt – how do we do good?
 - i) First by drawing near God, Second by abiding in Him
 - ii) Third – key place of the body of Christ – help each other
- b. We need others to help us be who we are supposed to be
 - i) Picture of a fire, embers together – and apart

3. Need is greater as approach the end

- a. Bible predicts a falling away...a weakening of Christianity in the end
- b. In order to overcome...we need this all the more – against flow

IV. How are we to be Assembling?

1. Assembling or forsaking – both are a manner...a habit

- a. Love it – because it is so simple...and yet so very true
- b. Being in fellowship is a habit...being out of fellowship is a habit
- c. Famous quote: Sow a thought, and you reap an act, Sow an act, and you reap a habit, Sow a habit, and you reap a character Sow a character, and you reap a destiny
- d. Daniel's example – Dan 1:8; 6:10
- e. Talk about the freedom of habit – not bondage
- f. Could say this in vernacular – don't get in habit of missing fellowship

hymn writer Frances Havergal gave several reasons for attending church on rainy days

1. God has blessed the Lord's Day, making no exceptions for stormy days.
2. I expect my minister to be there. I would be surprised if he stayed at home for weather.
3. I might lose out on the prayers and the sermon that would have done me great good.
4. For important business, rain doesn't keep me home. Church is, in God's sight, important
5. Bad weather will prove how much I love Christ. True love rarely fails to keep an appt.
6. Those who stay home from church because it's rainy frequently miss on fair Sundays, too. I mustn't take one step in that direction.
7. I don't know how many more Sundays God may give me. It would be poor preparation for my first Sunday in heaven to have slighted my last one on earth."

2. Intentionally others centered – notice by exhort one another

- a. Flows off of v. 24 – consider one another, to stir up
- b. This is huge...how can I saw it as clearly as I need to
- c. **Through sin, deception – we are a consumer generation – it is about me**
- d. **Through sin – most come to church, with Christians – thinking about self**
 - i) Don't come thinking about how to stir others up, serve others
 - ii) People visit – what does this church have to offer me
 - iii) Leave church – wasn't or was good for me...come with expectation
- e. **Bible calls us to love God 1st and love others 2nd...not about you**
 - i) Ought to on Sundays and yet through week – seek to encourage others
- f. So-So Christian – selfishly oriented
- g. Contrast Consumer vs Exhorter Christianity

3. Again – is this Church? Is this Sunday...yes...no, so much more

- a. Habitually get with other Christians – Sunday and more
- b. Intentionally seeking to use your gift to build up others

Conclusion

Guys – I honestly believe this is huge...and most of us don't know it
We are "feeling good, but doing poorly"

Fellowship is rare, sporadic and we miss it for the flimsy of excuses

Consider the life of Josef Gabor

- Grew up in Czechoslovakia when it was dominated by communism, and religion was despised as weakness. Culture all around against it
- His father taught communist doctrine classes. Home divided
- Josef's mother, believed in Jesus Christ, and stood strong for kids
- There was no church in their town – closest 3 hours away
- Joseph remembers that every Sunday, almost w/o fail
 - They got up early each Sun morning and took a 3-hour train ride to Prague
 - Then they walked to the church and sat through a 2 1/2-hour service.
 - After lunch in a nearby park, returned to church for a 2 1/2-hour meeting
 - Unable usually to attend the evening meeting (for the train)
 - Then they took the 3-hour ride home.
- Today Josef Gabor is a missionary to his own people in Czechoslovakia.
- When he tells about going to church as a child, his eyes fill with tears of gratitude for a mother who cared enough about his spiritual welfare to help him come to know and serve Christ – who held them fast to assembling with others