

Assembling To Worship

"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" (Hebrews 10:25)

INTRO—The New Testament often mentions saints assembling together for worship and mutual edification (Acts 2:46; 11:26; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; etc.). Even in the shadow of persecution and death, they made great sacrifices to meet together to worship.

I. ASSEMBLING WITH THE SAINTS TO WORSHIP

A. Command Or Privilege? Why not both? It is sometimes hard for us to imagine a command as anything other than something we must do rather than something we get to do (Psalm 29:2; 122:1)! How are each of the following both a command and a privilege?

- Psalm 95:1-7—
- Psalm 96:1-9—

B. Focusing On God. Worship is an exercise which transports us from this mundane world to the very presence of God (Hebrews 4:16). We are allowed into His presence to worship, but where is our proper place still (Psalm 99:5; 132:7)? Note how each of the following acts of worship are focused on God.

- Acts 12:5—
- Colossians 3:16—
- Ephesians 5:19—
- 2 Corinthians 8:4-5—
- 1 Corinthians 11:26—

C. Coming Together For Edification. Worship also has secondary benefits. Who else benefits from our assembling together (Hebrews 10:24-25)? Edification builds up and promotes spiritual growth. Note the importance of edification when Christians assemble together (even though during an age of 'spiritual gifts') in the following verses.

- 1 Corinthians 14:3-5—
- 1 Corinthians 14:12-17—
- 1 Corinthians 14:26—

D. Importance Of Personal Contact. We can never overemphasize the importance of personal contact among brethren. It is far more than mere socializing. What benefit do you see in the personal contact between brethren in each of the following assemblies?

- Acts 11:19-24—
- Acts 14:26-28—
- 2 Corinthians 8:16-24—
- Philippians 2:25-30; 4:16-18—

E. Decently And In Order. Confusion existed in the assemblies at Corinth, and that was much of the reason for Paul writing his first epistle to them (1 Corinthians 14:33,40). There is no divine order in which we are to carry out God's prescribed acts of worship, but there are at least two things we need to avoid in our worship.

- 1 Corinthians 14:40—
- Matthew 15:8-9—

CONCLUSION—Worship expressed in an assembly of the saints can be a delight to God, our brethren, and ourselves, but only if we consider the desires of the Creator, and only if we are there!