

not to do (cp. Exodus 20:4,5,7,13-17; 1 Cor. 6:9,10). To do that which we are **not** to do is sin (1 John 3:4). The word “**forsake**” (#1459) means to “desert, leave, abandon.” We are not to **forsake** any “assembling” of the church. The same word is used in Matthew 27:46, “... My God, my God, why hast thou **forsaken** me?” It is important to remember that the Father did not forsake Jesus forever, but it is said of this one occurrence. The Greek word for “**assembling**” is episunagoge (#1997) and means “a complete collection; specially a church meeting (for worship):--assembling (gathering) together.” It is only used in one other verse, 2 Thessalonians 2:1. There it is translated “gathering together.” In Hebrews 10:25 it is translated “assembling” and “together.” The “assembling” is the gathering together of the church for a religious service (ex. 1 Cor. 11:20, etc.). This is what one is not to forsake: “the **assembling** of ourselves together.” So if one willingly absences himself from a church service, he has forsaken “the assembling” (that particular assembling) and has broken a commandment of God.

Some “preachers” among us would have you to believe this is teaching not forsaking the church. Although we certainly should never forsake the church, the verse is clearly speaking of the assembling of the church. As I have pointed out the Greek word for “**assembling**” is episunagoge (#1997). Almost everyone knows the Greek word for **church** is ekklēsia (#1577). We can know the truth if we want to (cp. John 8:32).

There is a difference between “missing” and “forsaking.” To “miss” is to be absent unwillingly. To “forsake” is to be absent willingly.

The bottom line is: We do what we want to do (this is the key to it). It is a matter of where our treasure is (Matt. 6:19-21). If our heart's desire is to be with the saints in the presence of God to worship Him, we will be there if at all possible. Where is our affection (cp. Col. 3:1,2)? What is first in our lives (Matt. 6:33)? Do we truly love God as we should (John 14:15,23)? Are we living acceptable lives unto God (Rom. 12:1)? Or are we numbered with the “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:15,16) and the “foolish” virgins (Matt. 25:1ff)?

Hebrews 10:25 will meet us in the Judgment (Rev. 20:12). We must obey God if we expect Heaven to be our eternal home (Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21).

Remember all that Jesus has done for us and suffered for us, this will help us live faithfully before God (2 Cor. 5:14,15). ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(2 Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

SW

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Both articles are about our love for God and trust in God.



Church Attendance: Are You Deceived By The Old Serpent?

by Perry Sexton

Do you understand Genesis 2:17, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”? If so, you should understand Hebrews 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” Many in the church do not understand, evidently, because the old serpent has deceived them!!! “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Rev. 12:9) (continued on page 3)



God Will Supply Our Needs, IF...

by Perry Sexton

To the Christian, God is our Father (cp. Matt. 6:9; 1 John 3:10). **Does our Father care for us? Will our Father look out for us?** Yes to both questions, and resoundingly so (cp. Rom. 5:8)! This does not mean that we will have everything we want or think we need (parents can relate to this). We must understand that God truly does know best and does what is best for us because of His great love for us.

Does Christ, the Head of the church, care about His church? Does He want His church to be successful? Yes to both questions, and resoundingly so (cp. Acts 20:28)! Since God and Jesus care so much about us individually and collectively (His church), how should we react? We should love God with our whole being (Matt. 22:37) and wholly trust Him (2 Sam. 22:3,31; Psa. 62:8; 1 Tim. 6:17, et al).

Many in the church do not love God as they ought and do not trust in Him. They love money and trust in riches (1 Tim. 6:10,17). They must repent and love God and put their trust in Him (Col. 3:5).

The admonition and promise is clear: “*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*” (Heb. 13:5).

The warnings are unmistakable: “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). **And,** “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Tim. 6:10).

Two great problems: (1.) Church members lost because of not loving and trusting in God as they should, and therefore not giving to God acceptably; (2.) Because of lack of funds the church cannot and does not evangelize as it should, and untold numbers lost because of never hearing the gospel.

A great dilemma: A congregation will not spend money on evangelization because it has “so little” and some members will not give as they should (at least to their own congregation) because the church there is not doing any good works including evangelization. One preacher said he had trouble getting the brethren to spend \$400 on an evangelistic effort and afterwards complained about it not working as they expected! They had over \$55,000 in the bank. One congregation had over \$100,000 in the CDs and when a member asked an elder about it was told it was none of her business. Speak of lack of love and trust!!! Horror stories abound like these two. Brethren need to wake up before they find themselves in the flames of torment, and forever too late to change.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, here are two verses that I encourage you to remember always: (1.) “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [our needs, see context] shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). (2.) “And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:”

(2 Cor. 9:8, see context). **It is our choice: believe God or not.** Here are but a few of a multitude of verses available to help us love God and truly trust Him: Psa. 84:11; Prov. 3:9; 28:27; Mal. 3:10; 1 Cor. 15:58. It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). ♥

I highly recommend the DVD by Kyle Butt, **MY GOD and HIS MONEY** available from PEACEFULHOUSE PUBLISHING (334) 201-4362 and WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL (512) 398-5211.

I believe our loving God has given us sufficient warnings dealing with this matter, and these studies in this DVD could help many not lose their souls if the lessons are learned and heeded. Please consider the many Scriptures Kyle uses.

(continued from page 1 “Church Attendance”)

Some reasons why people forsake the assembling, and God in church services: Ball games, races, cookouts, gone fishing or hunting, friends or family visits and many other things. But is this the real reason? No. The real reason is lack of love for God, and faith in God!

Far too many preachers and teachers among us are willing to compromise the Word of God in order to please the people and have a larger following. It is amazing to me the length some brethren will go to in order to get around the teaching of Hebrews 10:25 (cp. 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Peter 3:16; Gal. 1:6,7; 2 Peter 2:1-3, etc.). The command of Hebrews 10:25 is as simple as the command of Mark 16:15. However, as some are not willing to obey Mark 16:15, some are not willing to obey Hebrews 10:25. So a twisting of Scriptures, a perverting, a watering down, or simply ignoring the command takes place. I do not believe the argument can be made that this verse is too complicated to understand. At least I have never heard that. If we can understand Genesis 2:17, we should also be able to understand Hebrews 10:25.

Please consider: Genesis 2:17, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Note, “thou shalt not eat of it.” How many times could they eat of that tree and still be pleasing to God (cp. Gen. 3:6ff)? One command for us is: “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” (Heb. 10:25). How many times can we forsake “the assembling of ourselves together” and still be pleasing to God?

Let us consider some definitions: “**not**” means “in no manner; to no degree: ... affirmation of the opposite.” “Not” is word #3756 in Strong’s Complete Concordance, and means “the absolute negative; (adv.) no or not.” “Forsaking the assembling” is something that we are