**R927\_Rumination for October 30, 2022**

The **T**heme: **Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together.** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext:*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together* **Heb. 10:25**a

The **T**hots:

Intro. *Forsake* (Gk. enkataleipō) = forsake or leave, and in a bad sense, to dessert. Strong

Other translations have it as *neglect to meet together* (NRSV*)*; *avoiding worshipping together* (MSG);

*staying away from our worship meetings* (HCSB);

1. **The Need to come together. Heb. 10:25a**

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*

1. The **N**umber is not of **P**articular importance –
2. The Lord **P**romised His **P**resence there. Mt. 18:20

*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.*

1. **P**aul made it a **P**oint to stay back in Troas to observe the Lord’s Supper with the Saints there. Acts 20:6, 7

*And we sailed away…to Troas…where we abode seven days. 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…*

1. The **P**rimacy of the Lord’s Supper: I Cor. 11:26
2. Its **P**eriodic Frequency: *For as often as… till He come.* 11:26a, c
3. Its **P**rimary **P**urpose: I Cor. 11:26b

* *eat this bread – ­*

*The Lord Jesus…took bread: And when he had given thanks, He brake it, and said,*

*Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* 11:23, 24

* *and drink this cup,*

*Also He took the cup…saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood:*

*this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.* 11:25

* *ye do shew the Lord's death – this do in remembrance of Me.* 11:26, 24, 25

1. Its **P**ermanent **P**ractice: *till He come*
2. The **N**eed for God’s **P**eople to be **P**hysically **P**resent
3. For Israel: **A C**ommand to the Males to gather at an **A**ppointed **P**lace (Jerusalem) every year. Deut. 16:16

*Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:*

1. For the **C**hurch, the **P**eople are to gather at an **A**greed **P**lace: Jn. 4:24
2. *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe Me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain,*

*nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.* Jn. 4:21

1. *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit*

*and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.* Jn. 4:23

1. *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.* Mt. 18:20

1. **The Necessity to gather together – *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.* Heb. 10:25**
2. For Wor**ship** of the Father Jn. 4:23, 24

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father*

*in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.*

*God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

1. For Fellow**ship**with *one another*

*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:* Heb. 10:24

*but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* Heb. 10:25

1. Because of our Relation**ship** with one another at the Lord’s Supper. I Cor. 10:16, 17
2. *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the* ***B****lood of Christ?*
3. *The* ***B****read which we* ***B****reak, is it not the communion of the* ***B****ody of Christ?*
4. *For we being many are one* ***B****read, and one* ***B****ody: for we are all partakers of that one* ***B****read.*

*Welcome, days of solemn meeting! Welcome, days of praise and prayer!*

*Far from earthly scenes retreating, In your blessings we would share.*

*Be Thou near us, blessèd Savior, Still at morn and eve the same;*

*Give us faith that can not waver; Kindle in us Heaven’s own flame.* Samuel F. Smith

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 927**

1. At the peak of the spread of the pandemic Covid-19, the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented in many countries restricting movement of the people and compelling them to observe a social distance of separation should they had need to come together.

Consequently, gatherings of a social nature in any public venue were prohibited and most people had to stay indoors. This resulted in many religious institutions being closed and church buildings were no exception.

However, church leaders wise in the ways of the technological world soon found a solution to these restrictions and zoom streaming of religious services via the internet became a practice and audio conferencing became the fashion with conferees staying at home and working from home in the comfort of their environment.

This was excellent for the handicapped, the vulnerable, the seniors and the sickly. Now they could attend church services without having to travel out of their homes. Indeed, this MCO restriction turned out to be a blessing not only to the handicapped and the seniors, but also to the young and able, freeing them from the restrictions of time, space and even congesting traffic on the road in going to their places of work or church gatherings.

Recently, with Covid-19 under control, MCO restrictions were removed and people were allowed to move about again.

Churches and religious groups were allowed to meet. Rules concerning masking and social distancing were lifted and meetings and gatherings were allowed to go back to normal, as before.

But, did it go back to normal?

No, certain members were so used to the comfortable life of working and worshipping at home during the MCO days, they now find it hard to return to “gather” in churches where they have to be punctual for meetings, get dressed appropriately to come together for worship, travel a distance when they can stay comfortable at home, and having many more reasons to advocate streaming of services in churches to continue.

Is the above how you feel now that physical church gatherings are back and you are required *not* [toforsake] *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)? **REFLECT**

1. Why do some Christians go to church and enjoy doing so? Is it because of the entertainment staged for them to sit back and enjoy what is regarded as “worship”?

People are swayed by the orchestral music and choral pieces rendered by talented singers with opportunities to join in as well. They are also inspired by motivational speakers and preachers who challenge them to live up to their full potential abilities and capacities and enjoy life to the fullest. There is no reference to sin, holy living or separation from the world or sanctification unto God. Christian life and Christian living are enjoyment and entertainment. Do not mention suffering, sickness or disappointments, poverty, failures or such ills – they are not for the Christian. Messages are built on a person’s life experiences perhaps founded on one apt biblical text, taken out of context, to give them a basis for a so-called spiritual sermon. There is no teaching on biblical and solid sound doctrines to found their faith on but just a foundation of sand that shifts with every whit of doctrine.

Missing is sound teaching based on the solid foundation of the Word – instead of it, Christian lives and Christian living are built on life’s experiences of various other people who have so-called extraordinary experiences with God.

Is this why you go to church? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Do you pray for and with your church, or do you play church?*