

THE CASE FOR CONVENING **(Hebrews 10:24-25)**

1. We are obeying a command from God.

1. This one is very simple to understand.
 1. God wants His people to worship Him (John 4:23-24).
 2. This is something that He has always desired and given directions to do.
2. The recipients of the Hebrews letter were told they should not forsake the assemblies of the saints (Hebrews 10:24-25),
3. When you look at the early church, you see it was their practice to convene every first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
4. There is no doubt that we have a command from God to assemble and we place our souls in jeopardy when failing to keep this, or any, command of God.

2. We are in the presence of Christ.

1. Face it, we break God's commands from time to time.
 1. It is sin, it is wrong, but we still do it.
 2. We need reasons to convene that motivate us positively to attend as we should because, for whatever reason, many simply don't fear God the way they should and are not motivated in the least by fear of punishment.
2. There are many motivating reasons for coming together for worship and one of them is that we get to be in the presence of Jesus.
3. By this, I do not mean we get to see or touch Him.
 1. He has ascended into heaven and is no longer physically on earth.
 2. He will not take up space on a pew or stand up to lead a prayer.
4. However, Jesus is in the midst of His people when they come together for worship.
 1. Revelation 1:13, 20.
 2. Matthew 18:20.
5. It ought to bring great comfort and joy, as well as soberness, to know that Jesus is near when we assemble together.
 1. This shows the care He has for His brethren.
 2. He wants us to know that He is here for us and with us and He wants us to draw strength from that.

3. We are able to praise God.

1. Our heavenly Father has blessed each of us tremendously.
 1. He is the Father of lights from whom comes all blessings (James 1:17).
 2. He blesses the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45).
2. We should want to praise Him for all that He has done for us.
3. He should be praised for His creating all things for us (Revelation 4:11).
4. He should be praised for devising His plan of redemption and sending His Son.
5. He should be praised for the truth He has given us (Isaiah 25:1).
6. We ought to have the attitude of the Psalmist (Psalm 20:12).

7. We praise Him when we assemble in worship and sings songs of praise and pray to Him (Hebrews 13:15).
4. **We are able to give back to God.**
 1. Some may say that this is not a great reason to come to worship.
 2. You and I have the opportunity to give back to God out of the great treasure He has given to us.
 3. God's work is vital and we get to have a part in that with God.
 1. Whenever a soul is saved in Greene County or Pickens County, we can say we had a part in that.
 2. Whenever a soul is saved anywhere in the world because they saw a GBN program that used God's word to prick their heart, we can say we had a part in that.
 3. Whenever a soul is saved because a sermon was preached by a gospel preacher we helped support at MSOP or ETSOP, we can say we had a part in that.
 4. Whenever a soul is edified because of the tapes we send out, we can all say we had a part in that.
 4. We could never say that if we didn't give back to God.
5. **We are able to be renewed in worship.**
 1. The world beats on all of us.
 2. Satan is constantly nipping at our heels trying to get us to fall.
 3. When I come through these doors, it is almost as if there is a great burden lifted off my shoulders.
 1. We get to be around people that care about us (Philippians 2:4).
 2. We get to be around people that love us (1 Peter 2:17).
 4. Isaiah 40:31.
 5. So much good happens to us when we obey God's command to worship that we ought to desire to never miss services.
 6. Go ask some of our shut-ins what it would mean to them to be able to attend another worship service.
 7. We should feel as David did about worship (Psalm 122:1).
6. **We get to encourage one another.**
 1. We do this through our presence.
 1. I can't encourage you if you are not here.
 2. You can't encourage me if I'm not here.
 2. It helps me to know that I am not the only one trying to do right.
 1. Remember when Elijah felt like he was the only one?
 2. He wanted to quit and give up and die.
 3. God told him there were 7,000 others who were as faithful as Elijah.
 4. We need to know that we aren't the only ones out there.
 3. Our singing is to praise God and encourage one another (Colossians 3:16).
 1. I love to hear this congregation sing.
 2. We do it well and it encourages me when I hear us sing together.

Conclusion

1. It is much easier to be haphazard in attendance or quit altogether.

2. However, when one makes it a practice to put nothing in the place of worship, it becomes easier to be at worship than to miss.
3. We gain so much from being at the worship services of the church.
4. Ask someone who left the church and has come back whether or not it is worth it to miss.
5. I believe they will quickly tell that there is nothing that should get in the way of being at services.
6. God wants His people to worship Him and His people to need to worship Him in order to maintain their faithfulness and zeal.
7. Much more is gained by being at worship than by missing.