

INVOCATION:

Lord, as we gather here today, help us to focus our attention on You. Remove from our minds the things of no consequence here today. Help us to unite together to worship You in spirit and in truth. Help us to recognize Your glory and holiness and receive our worship today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

What have we said for the last four weeks that disciples do? Disciples ABIDE, CONNECT, and SHARE. How disciples do that is what we call the 5 Gs: God Time, Gather Time, Group Time, Give Time, and Go Time. FULL DISCLOSURE: The 5G Life is borrowed from Pastor Robbie Symons. Last week we discussed the importance of God Time. How has that been going for you?

Today, we will discuss the importance of Gather Time, which is what we are doing here now. It is coming into the Lord's house from out of the world and worshipping Him.

MAIN TEXT (Hebrews 10:19-25)

BACKGROUND

The HarperCollins Study Bible says about the book of Hebrews, "The letter to the Hebrews forcefully argues that through Christ, faithful Christians have direct access to God. The text urges the faithful, confident of their covenant relationship with God, to follow Christ's example and live as he did, faithful, hopeful, loving, and patient in the face of persecution."

Hebrews was written between 60-90 A.D., still during the height of the persecution of the early church. Today we will see that the divinely inspired author of Hebrews encourages us by commanding, LET US DRAW NEAR, LET US HOLD ON, and LET US BE CONCERNED. Finally, we will see what it means to worship together.

PASSAGE OUTLINE:

1. LET US DRAW NEAR (10:22)

- a. (10:19) Since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus.
 - i. We are free to approach Christ without a priest intervening on our behalf.
 - ii. Under the Jewish system, nobody except priests could enter the holy place.
 - iii. We can and should draw near boldly!
- b. (10:22) With a true heart
 - i. (10:22) in full assurance of our faith
 - ii. If you've had your God Time during the week, then your heart is prepared for Sunday worship!
- c. (10:22) With a clean conscience
 - i. Having repented from our sins!
 - ii. Again, if you have had your God Time during the week, your sins have been pointed out by the Word and you have had a chance to repent.

2. LET US HOLD ON (10:23)

- a. (10:23) To the confession of our hope
 - i. (Heb 11:1) Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.
 - ii.

(Rom 8:18-25) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it — in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits — we also groan

within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Now in this hope we were saved, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

b. (10:23) He who promised is faithful

i. He who promised is Jesus, the Christ, who has promised to return in like manner as He ascended into heaven. He is coming back, and until then, we have a job to do here.

3. LET US BE CONCERNED (10:24)

a. (10:24) Promote love

i. When we gather here, as brothers and sisters, as the body of Christ, we are to gather in love. Do we? Do we have patience, kindness, longsuffering with each other? These are the people we're going to spend eternity with; we might as well get used to them now!

ii. (John 13:34-35) A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have love you, so you must love one another.

b. (10:24) Promote good works (KJV, provoke)

i. In the body of believers

1.

(Gal. 6:10) Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the food of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

ii. Out of the body of believers

1.

(Luke 6:35-36) But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. **36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

- c. (10:25) Promote faithfulness in worship
 - i. (10:25) Not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other.
 - 1. This is the verse for those who say, “I’m can be a Christian without church.”
 - 2. Even in the first century, there was apparently an attendance problem.
 - 3. There are 14,813,234 members in Southern Baptist Churches. Average weekly worship attendance in those same churches in 5,297,788. This means that less than 36% of people on the books are attending each Sunday.
 - ii. You cannot truly be a Christ follower and neglect His church!
 - iii. Wildlife video: separated from the herd.
- d. (10:25) Even more important as the end draws near.
 - i. We are closer to the end than we have ever been. Drawing closer to God and to each other is especially important.
 - ii. Even the world has a sense of eschatology. Look at the worry over the environmental crisis.

4. WHAT IT MEANS TO WORSHIP TOGETHER

- a. Hearing the Word together.
 - i. Paul commands the young preacher Timothy in 1 Tim 4:13, “Give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching.”
 - ii. It is impossible to teach if the people are not gathered to be taught.
 - iii.

Tozer: “Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”

- b. Exalting Christ together
 - i. (Col. 3:16) Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your heart.
- c. Praying to God together
 - i. (Acts 4:31) When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God’s message with boldness.
 - ii. Our time of prayer is not for you to listen to me pray. It is a time for us to join our hearts together in prayer to God!
- d. Observing ordinances together
 - i. Baptism
 - ii. Lord’s Supper
 - iii. These are not alone activities.
- e. We fellowship and are strengthened together.
 - i. (1 Cor 14:26) Paul writes regarding the worship service that all things must be done for edification.
 - ii. That does not mean that I preach to try to please you. It means that I preach what God commands for you to have a solid life.
- f. We encounter the Lord together

- i. (2 Cor. 3:18) We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- ii. This encounter with the Lord transforms us! We are to be transformed together.

CONCLUSION:

Our worship here mirrors what we will be doing in heaven for eternity, except that there will not be any preaching. If you don't like to come to church and praise God, you're not very likely to enjoy heaven.

As we continue to grow as disciples of Christ, we must recognize how important it is to show up at His house to worship Him together. There are no lone-ranger Christians. The life of a disciple is not a solo act; it is participating in the Body of Christ coming together to pray, praise, sing, listen, be refreshed and encouraged, to encourage others, and to be sent from. That is why we're here.

If you have not yet submitted your life to Christ, I would urge you to consider following Him today.