

When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

1Corinthians 11:20

Store In My Heart

Hebrews 10:36

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Have you ever heard the word "sticktoitiveness?" I have, many times and in many different situations. I am convinced that the Hebrew writer gives us a pretty good definition for that word in this verse. We need sticktoitiveness in our service to God. We need to keep on keeping on. Paul encouraged the Corinthian brethren to be "steadfast" in their work for God.

No matter what happens in life, we need to keep moving toward God. There is never a time that we can slack in our service. We must keep paddling or we will drift along with the current of the world around us.

If I want the promise, I must endure! Keep on working. Keep on studying. Keep on believing.



Lord's Day Assembling

Dan Henderson

I've been trying to get my thoughts together to express what I believe regarding the need to assemble. I generally don't write much because I find it very difficult to 'put on paper' what I can readily see in my mind. Maybe it is just a lack of practice, but there are so many others that write well with sound doctrine and my ramblings don't really add much. With that said, there are a couple of things that I have yet to see dealt with in the many discussions, sermons, and articles on the need to assemble as Christians on the Lord's Day. Maybe I have just missed them in the flood of material, but since they seem to be very important to understanding and the lack of clarity has led to some drawing possible wrong conclusions I will attempt to consider them here.

To begin, I want to state that I am convinced that the New Testament teaches that we who serve the Lord are obligated to do everything within our power to come physically together on the Lord's Day to remember the sacrifice of Jesus as He instructed the Apostles on the night He was betrayed. The context and phrasing of the Apostle Paul in **1Corinthians** should be sufficient to demonstrate this. The action of Paul in remaining at Troas for the weekly assembly (**Acts 20:6-7**) is also evidence of his commitment to this assembly. Add to these the urging of the Hebrew writer regarding the need to continue assembling (**Hebrews 10:25**) and I am fully convinced of the importance of such an assembly.

Many of those who have written against such a convicted attitude have made accusations of devotion to a building, not to Christ. I want to clearly state that I am not currently, nor have I ever been, devoted to a building. My devotion is to my Lord. To assume otherwise means that either my thoughts were not clearly explained, or you are using a 'strawman' in an attempt to discredit me. (Not that anyone has specifically accused me, but I use myself simply as an example.) This is one of the things that has disturbed me in the current discussions about halting or continuing the assembly. As far as I can tell, there has been no one who said we must assemble on the Lord's Day for the Lord's Memorial in an approved building bought or rented with the Lord's Money. What has been said is simply that we must assemble together somewhere at some time. For most of us that place and time has been regular for many years, therefore it is convenient to continue assembling there and then. With the government restrictions on assemblies, of many different kinds, in enclosed spaces this became very inconvenient. This led to many different plans that seemed to come from the idea, first and foremost, that assembling without coming together

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For Our Information

Let us continue to encourage one another as we have opportunity.

Several of our sick are doing better but are still recovering and need our prayers.

Take advantage of the many resources that are now available for study and contemplation of God's Word.

Take time to refresh your mind with our Sunday Class lesson. We will get back to it eventually.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

physically was the way to go. This led to conference calls, video chats, and full-blown broadcast worship for many congregations. This was simpler for some groups than for others since they had already been making their service available online for those who were sick or unable to attend. Maybe being already accustomed to this made it easier for them to make the decision to go that direction. Our general comfort with such technology did seem to be a factor in making some of these determinations.

Unfortunately, it also meant that those with a conscience that required physically assembling together were made to offend that conscience or skip that Memorial. No matter how much you do or do not include under the teaching of Paul in **Romans 13-15** one thing is clear, we should do everything within our power to avoid causing one to go against his conscience. This is the second problem I had with most of the discussions regarding the Lord's Day Assembly. It seems many of God's Children were left without an option to satisfy what they knew in their hearts needed to be done. Did the congregations that cancelled all services at the building offer an option for brethren, some of whom feel compelled to assemble for the Lord's Memorial, to come together, other than "worship at home"? Folks, if I can satisfy God's command with 'worship at home', why did Paul establish local congregations? (**Acts 14:21-23**)

Many reply with 'present distress' arguments, (**1Corinthians 7:26**), but Paul's instruction regarding the choice of marriage is not dealing with a command to be obeyed. It is dealing with a choice God allows us to make of our own free will. "When you come together" has never been presented as a choice by sound brethren in any message I have ever read or heard. We spent centuries telling brethren God commands us to assemble together on the Lord's Day, but now all of a sudden we decide we can do it "together" apart. To many reasonable minds that sounds like a flip from one side to the other. Does this mean brethren in foreign lands no longer need to come together if they can get our online broadcast? Will it be ok for each state to have 'one' church that everyone attends via the internet? We cannot have it both ways. Either physically assembling on the Lord's Day for the Lord's Memorial is necessary or it is not. Paul indicated to the brethren in Corinth that it was necessary. (**1Corinthians 11**)

Many reply, and rightly so, with the risks associated with such an assembly for spreading disease. I understand your concern and will defend your right to make choices you feel are necessary to deal with that concern. I will add, though, that many brethren found ways to continue to physically assemble without increasing the risk to those who were gathered together. Limiting the length and frequency of services, sitting away from one another, gathering outside, even smaller gatherings in various homes, were all options that any congregation could have chosen. Certainly, there are difficulties that must be overcome, distraction and weather are a couple that come to mind, but there are many brethren in other countries that deal with these on a weekly basis. Surely, we could handle them for a few weeks.

In the end, each congregation is left to choose what is best for those who gather together in that location. My concern now as always is that we look at all sides and options, making certain that we do everything within our power to help each member of our congregation fulfill God's command in a manner that first satisfies God, and second does not offend their own conscience. Let us always consider one another and may God look upon us with mercy as we strive diligently to follow His Will in all things.

Well, it is now 'on paper', it is up to you whether it is clearly stated or even useful. If nothing else, maybe it will cause you to "think on these things" for yourself.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!