

Heb. 10:25 ²⁵ “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Rick Warren of Saddle Back church says, “A Christian without a church home is like an organ without a body, a sheep without a flock, or a child without a family. It is an unnatural state.

I. Misconceptions of Church attendance

There are many misconceptions when it comes to the church and the importance of us, as God’s people, attending church services but the biggest one is ‘I am the church and the church is not a building’.

This is a true statement but sometimes used as an excuse for a person not attending and committing themselves to church services.

Church – Ecclesia

- ☐ Called out
- ☐ Assembly or Congregation of people

A. Called out ones

- **1 Peter 1:9**

B. Assembly or body of believers

- **Acts 11:22**
- **Acts 14:23**
- **Rev. 2 - 4**

Planted and Protected

II. What the Bible says about Church attendance

When we study the New Testament we can clearly see that the church is God's plan and God's divine design for the reaching, teaching, healing and development of His people.

- A. Jesus Commits Himself to the building of the church (Matt. 16:18)
- B. God gives birth to the church (Acts 2:1-4)
- C. God's plan for the development of His people

Acts 2:46-47 ⁴⁶ "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Two settings in place for the development of those that were being saved

- ☐ In the temple courts (Church Service)
- ☐ Broke bread in their homes (LIFE Group involvement)

- D. God's divine strategy for the world

God's vision has always been a global vision, and His strategy to fulfill that vision has been the local church.

Matt. 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

Acts 1:8 ⁸ "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Planted and Protected

- Persecution of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1)
- Leadership scatters to surrounding cities and begin to establish more churches
 - o Philip in Samaria (Acts 8:4-8)

As Philip went into Samaria we can see that not only did he evangelize the city, but he also established a place of gathering for those that were being saved. He established a CHURCH.

- o Churches established throughout the region (Acts 9:31)
- o Revival in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21)
- o The Church of Antioch continues in the Vision of Church Planting (Acts 13:1-3)
- Peter and John continue to establish churches amongst the Jewish Population

Gal. 2:7-9⁷ "On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews."⁸ For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.⁹ James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews."

We can see that the church planters God was raising up had their specific target groups.

- Paul & Barnabas continue to establish churches amongst the Gentile nation (Acts 14:23)

III. The benefits of Church Attendance

As a growing and maturing Christian, one needs to have healthy practice and discipline if they are going to continually grow and mature toward the future God has for them.

One of those practices and disciplines is consistent church attendance.

Planted and Protected

Heb. 10:25²⁵ “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- ☐ Great things happen when we sit under the Word

- o **Our faith is strengthened and refreshed.**

Heb. 11:6⁶ “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Rom. 10:17¹⁷ “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

- o Under the Word the dry bones came back to life (Ezek. 37:1-10)
- ☐ Never have to do life alone (Acts 2:42-46)

God never intended for His people to face life and its trials on their own; He provided a place of protection and that place has always been the church.

- o Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego principle
 - Faced the challenge together
 - Thrown in the fire together
 - Experienced the fourth man in the fire together
 - Delivered from the fire together

IV. The Importance of being committed to the local Church

Jer. 17:8⁸ “He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Every time a tree or plant is uprooted from the place that it was planted it frustrates the depth and development of the roots.

And because of no depth it is never able to develop the roots needed to find water on its own.

Our prayer is that through the grace of God we would develop men and women of longevity.



**Answer God's call by Equipping yourself for Work in the Ministry.
Enrol for VETI Courses – it will change your life for good.
Consult: Ivan Carolus at 0823716093**

