



You Need The CHURCH

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. – Hebrews 10:25

I am amazed and discouraged to see so many Christians (especially young Christian adults) trying to fulfill God's call on their life alone. I hear things like, "I don't need church." "My relationship with God is personal." And "There's nowhere in scripture that says you HAVE to go to church." And my heart sinks when I hear these comments.

The truth is you DO need the church. Yes, there is not a verse about attendance. But to use that as an argument not to go seems more like a condition of the heart, not legalism. The church is called, "The Body of Christ," "The Bride of Christ" and "The Fellowship of Believers." Imagine Jesus with no body; a marriage with no bride and saddest of all, a Believer without fellowship. How?! How can someone keep their relationship with Jesus fresh and new all by themselves? Without the strength and encouragement of other Christians?!

You know this but LIFE IS HARD. For everyone. But even harder for a Christian. The "god of this age" wants nothing more than to destroy you and your relationship to God; his fierce enemy. We look shamefully at a soldier who refuses to fight, lays down his weapon and is taken by the enemy, but we don't even bat an eye when we, as Christians, do the same. Satan wants to "sift you like wheat" and instead of doing everything we can to combat him, we try on our own beliefs and efforts (or lack thereof) to ignore him and to play as close to him as possible. We redefine what God wants and expects. We misquote scripture so that we have an excuse.

The truth is we were made for relationships. First and foremost with God through Jesus Christ and the grace He offers. Second to the Body of believers for strength, encouragement and even correction (in gentleness and love). And third we were meant to have a relationship with unbelievers so that they may see the love of Christ at work and want to come to Him for salvation. You can't do that trying to live your faith in a recliner.

You need to make church a priority for several reasons, but the biggest is because God's Word tells you. If no other verse can convince you, then Hebrews 10:25 is very upfront. The Day is approaching. And whatever excuses have sounded fine in your head will not hold up against the Word of God. And I know there are times that everyone misses church. But there is a HUGE difference between missing church and not going. If you don't know the difference, then go to church and find out.

I know this has sounded harsh and judgmental. I only come to you humbly and in His love. The "gathering of the saints" must be a priority in the believer's life. I have NEVER seen a Christian grow with health and vitality without being involved in a church. EVER. And notice I didn't say "attending" a church. Your soul needs encouragement, fellowship and service.

See You Sunday!

From My Heart,

Billy