



Don't Give Up Meeting Together

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 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 10:24-25

We live in a new time, a new reality if you don't mind me saying. Everything changed (except God, of course) in March, 2020. We learned that the Church is not at an address but in the heart. We learned that connecting with people is still somewhat possible through our technology. And we learned, regardless of how you feel about it, COVID-19 is going to be around for a LONG while.

But then some light peered through our blinds. We started opening up the places where we can worship together. All this while not stopping our "online" message of The Gospel. Now people had a choice. They could watch it in their pajamas on a screen or join other Christians in person. And I know everyone has their reasons for what they've decided, but it's not the same. **HEAR ME, IT'S NOT THE SAME.**

I don't mean to judge anyone nor twist anyone's arm. Some, if not most, have good reasons to watch online. But some do it because...well...10:30 seems early, I guess. So knowing my heart for you and your decision, just hear my message; Church online, as wonderful as it is, is not the same as joining the saints. I'll explain.

(1)Teachings, (2)Fellowship, (3)Breaking of Bread and (4)Prayer – Acts 2:42

These are what we call the 4 Tenets of Worship. They were devoted to by the first century Christians and so we (Restorationist) devote ourselves to them also. Now three of these can be done while watching our services online. You can listen to the message of the Gospel (though I am not an apostle). You can partake in communion from home. And, of course, you can pray. But what about fellowship? **Are you devoted to fellowship?**

Now understand. I am not trying to pressure you. I know some of you are trying to stay well. I get it. But here's my question. **For fellowship, where are you devoted?** Here's why I ask. Some of you have fears about being around people at church, so are you just as fearful to be around people at the park? The lake? Your friends' houses? Do you find you are more devoted to go there? Do you find more reasons NOT to join church but also find reasons you HAVE to join your friends? **In short, what are you most devoted to when it comes to fellowship?**

If this was important for the early Christians to be devoted to, it should be important for us to be devoted to also. They needed it then. We still need it now.

From My Heart,

Billy