

Shared by Glo Ford at the 10am Service on Sunday 12th September 2021

Verses from Hebrews 10:22 - 25 “You've got to be there!”

Challenged:

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how WE may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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.”

The notes I read said: Many people pay high prices, travel a distance and then sit for hours on hard seats (or stand) to watch a football match or other sports game. One might think ‘who needs to go to a crowded stadium (especially these days) full of screaming fans – when you can sit at home in your favourite chair, have a couple of drinks and perhaps some nibbles and watch the game on television?’ But avid sports fans may well say, “You've got to be there! Being there is far more exciting than sitting in front of a TV set!”

Since COVID and the lockdowns began, I enjoyed sitting at home in a comfortable chair with a cuppa, watching a televised service on the Tele. When we were “allowed” back here in church, I continued watching online services, praying, listening to worship music CDs, reading my Bible and so on, sitting in my armchair (today is the first time I've come back here for a service).

I confess I had gotten ‘out of the habit of meeting together’ with other Christians. I did manage to get back to home group and Drop In and was happy doing just that. But, worship is more powerful with an assembled church as well as helping us to get involved in the lives of others. For instance, I was unaware that a friend of mine had been going through a really tough time and had had two operations. I doubt I would have known if I hadn't gone to the Drop In gathering on Friday, when a Church member let me know about our mutual friend's struggles. So, I have been able to ‘do’ something for her as well as pray for her.

The notes I was reading went on to say:

Above all, in the church assembled, we sense the presence of the Saviour, so we need to remember that the saying ‘You've got to be there!’ is also backed by the word of God here in Hebrews 10:19-25 especially v 25.

CH - - CH means nothing unless U R in it

It's easy to NOT be in church, especially if we are feeling discouraged, sad, fearful or despondent. But, that's exactly when we NEED to be there. Satan loves it if we neglect Christian meetings because when we gather we can share our faith and strengthen one another in the Lord. The important thing to remember is that if we are not here in church, WE miss out on fellowship... WE might miss being encouraged when we are feeling down... Or WE might miss being able to encourage SOMEONE ELSE. So we SHOULD be there – for ourselves AND for others.

So, I pray now:

Let us draw near to God with sincere heart and with the full assurance that face brings. Help us, Lord, to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for you who promised IS faithful. Forgive us when we have been unfaithful to you and neglectful of others. Show us, I pray, how we might encourage and spur one another on. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Spiritual growth is a group project

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'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'

[Psalm 122:1 NKJV](#)

The psalmist said, 'I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."' Do you feel that way about God's house too? And if not, why not? Paul writes: 'God is building a home. He's using us all – irrespective of how we got here – in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home' (Ephesians 2:19-22 MSG). There are times when you need to be alone with God in prayer; there are times you'll only find the answer you seek when you're with God's people. When those who are indwelt by God's Spirit meet for worship, teaching, encouragement and service, God shows up in a powerful way. You grow spiritually as you experience His presence, hear His Word, and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Every time you gather with other members of Christ's body, it reminds you again that you're on the winning side. It's hard to celebrate by yourself. When you've something worth celebrating you generally call people together so you can share the joy, right? Jesus is so excited about His victory at the cross, that He calls us together every week to celebrate what He accomplished for us. And celebration, like spiritual growth, is a group project.