

Hebrews 10:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Analysis

This exhortation addresses the practice of corporate worship and Christian assembly in the face of persecution. The Greek verb 'egkataleípontes' (ἐγκαταλείποντες, 'forsaking') means to abandon completely or desert, using the same root as Christ's cry on the cross 'Why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46). The 'assembling of ourselves together' (ἐπισυναγωγὴν ἔαυτῶν, episunagōgēn heautōn) refers specifically to Christian gathering for worship, instruction, and mutual encouragement. The phrase 'as the manner of some is' (καθὼς ἔθος τισίν, kathōs ethos tisin) indicates this was already becoming a troubling pattern—some believers were habitually absenting themselves from corporate worship. The contrasting imperative is 'exhorting one another' (παρακαλοῦντες ἔαυτούς, parakalountes heautous), using the same word for the Holy Spirit as Paraclete (Comforter/Encourager). Believers are to stimulate, encourage, and admonish each other toward perseverance. The temporal urgency is emphasized by 'as ye see the day approaching' (καθ' ὅσον βλέπετε ἐγγίζουσαν τὴν ἡμέραν, kath' hoson blepete engizousan tēn hēmeran)—either Christ's return or the impending judgment on Jerusalem (AD 70). As eschatological expectation intensifies, the necessity for mutual encouragement increases proportionally.

Historical Context

Written to Hebrew Christians around AD 60-69 during escalating persecution, this verse addresses believers tempted to disassociate from the visible Christian

community. Under Nero's persecution (AD 64-68) or increasing Jewish hostility, public identification with Christianity brought severe consequences—loss of property, social ostracism, imprisonment, or death. Some Hebrew Christians calculated that attending synagogue while privately believing in Jesus offered safer middle ground. The author categorically rejects this compromise, warning that forsaking Christian assembly demonstrates dangerous drift toward apostasy (Hebrews 10:26-31 follows immediately with sobering warnings). The 'day approaching' likely refers both to Christ's imminent return (expected within that generation, though delayed in God's providence) and more immediately to Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70, which would end temple worship and vindicate Christianity's break from Judaism. Early church practice included regular gatherings on the Lord's Day (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2), incorporating Scripture reading, teaching, Lord's Supper, prayer, and mutual encouragement. Abandoning these assemblies isolated believers from the body's sustaining ministry, making them vulnerable to apostasy through discouragement and doctrinal drift.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What circumstances or attitudes might tempt modern believers to neglect regular corporate worship?
2. How does gathering with other believers provide protection against spiritual drift and apostasy?
3. In what practical ways can Christians 'exhort one another' during corporate gatherings?
4. Why is physical presence in corporate assembly irreplaceable by individual devotion or online participation?
5. How should awareness of Christ's return affect our commitment to regular fellowship with other believers?

Interlinear Text

μὴ ἐγκαταλείποντες τὴν ἐπισυναγωγὴν ἑαυτῶν καθὼς
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves as
G3361 G1459 G3588 G1997 G1438 G2531

ἔθος τισίν ἀλλὰ παρακαλοῦντες καὶ τοσούτῳ
the manner of some is but exhorting one another and so much
G1485 G5100 G235 G3870 G2532 G5118

μᾶλλον ὅσῳ βλέπετε ἐγγίζουσαν τὴν ἡμέραν
the more as ye see approaching the day
G3123 G3745 G991 G1448 G3588 G2250

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:42 (Kingdom): And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Matthew 18:20 (Parallel theme): For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Hebrews 3:13 (Parallel theme): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24 (Parallel theme): And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

1 Corinthians 5:4 (Parallel theme): In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 4:18 (Parallel theme): Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Acts 2:1 (Parallel theme): And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 20:7 (Parallel theme): And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1 Corinthians 14:3 (Parallel theme): But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

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