

**6-13-11**  
**THE BIBLICAL PATTERN OF GOD'S PEOPLE ASSEMBLING TOGETHER**

**Intro:**

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

Hebrews 10:25 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.

We are gathered together once again in this place to do what the Lord commanded us to do. The Word of God says, that we should be faithful in our responsibility to assemble ourselves together. This is a command of the Lord.

He even gave two ordinances that can only be fulfilled as his church assembles together. One of those ordinances we partook of this morning, which is communion. The other ordinance takes place when someone is saved, and that is Baptism. Jesus said, to do this in remembrance of him, ... We read this about communion,

Acts 20:7 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.

The early church gathered together to celebrate the Lord's table the first day of the week. Also we read that Paul preached a long sermon on that day..

The very word church comes from the Greek word ecclesia, which means to assemble. The most defining attribute of Christ's church is that we assemble together. We do this at this place every Sunday and Wednesday and whenever we call special meetings such as revival meetings, or mission conferences, or whatever special meetings we deem to be something the Lord would have us to do.

Now the Bible is clear when it says,

Hebrews 10:25 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.

We are not to forsake this sacred duty and responsibility. Why? Because the purpose of assembling is clearly given and we cannot fulfill this purpose by staying home...

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

The church assembles together so we can be provoked to love each other, and do good works..

When we assemble together we receive provocation.

Provocation to love each other..

Provocation to do good works..

Provocation and Exhortation to prepare for Christ's return...

This principle of God's people assembling together and worshipping God goes all the way back to the Old Testament.

Why do we gather together and assemble together?

Do we not do so to bring honor and glory to the lord.. to obey Him?

Did He not command us to assemble ourselves.. together with regularity?

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

Hebrews 10:25 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.

This we should do not grudgingly or out of necessity ..

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

We should want to assemble ourselves together....

But many times.. we get distracted by the world..

**THERE ARE MORE THINGS TO DISTRACT YOU FROM OBEYING THE LORD..  
BUT YOU NEED TO BE REMINDED.. AND GET ON TRACK!**

People who are saved.. will want to obey the Lord..

But the world and even liberal Christians will tell you it does not matter..

It is clear that the early church formally meet the first day of the week with regularity:

Acts 20:7 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.

I Corinthians 16:2 Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Now today by custom our church meets on Sundays and Wednesdays. I have often heard people complain and say, that's too much. I mean to meet Sunday for three hours and then Wednesday night again?

I have heard people say, where do you read in the Bible that the church meet Sunday Morning and Sunday night and Wednesday night? Well you don't, but we do read that the early church meet in the temple and house to house every day!

Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Acts 5:42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

So maybe we should just do what we read in the book of Acts and meet every day! The truth is we meet at the times because it helps set a schedule that most Bible believing Christians are used to. We see that custom of meeting on the first day of the week in the book of Acts. The Church assembles when the corporate church assembly and leadership chooses to assemble and not when one individual decides to.

I think we should meet regularly when we believe it would bring glory to God and advance his Kingdom on earth.

This morning I want to consider the Biblical pattern of God's people assembling themselves together..

***WHAT IS THE PATTERN OF SCRIPTURE?  
WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ON THIS ISSUE?***

***I. GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HISTORY SET ASIDE A DAY TO WORSHIP THEIR CREATOR..***

***1. In the Old Covenant That Day Was the 7th Day or Sabbath Day***

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:

Exodus 20:11 For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

## **CONSIDER WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF MEETING ON THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY**

God commanded his people to sanctify a special day of rest and worship to our creator. The Sabbath day commemorated God our creator and his creation every week. He created the world in 6 days and set aside the 7th day as a day of rest from earthly toil and endeavors.

Exodus 31:17 It [is] a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

The Sabbath was a sign honoring the God of creation. It was a sign to the nation Israel. He rested on that day so he said his people should also rest. It was also a sign of the Old Testament Covenant for the nation.

This sign was given to the children of Israel signifying the birth of their nation:

Exodus 31:16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, [for] a perpetual covenant.

Deuteronomy 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and [that] the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

The worship of the Jews on the Sabbath or 7th day was a weekly reminder of their deliverance from Egypt. They left Egypt on the 15th day of the month of Abib which was a Sabbath day. The 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Biblical calendar was always a Sabbath day. So the reason the Jews worshipped on the 7th day of the week was based not just on creation, but also was based on their deliverance from Egypt. And their Exodus was on the Sabbath day or the 15th day of the month which each month was a Sabbath day in the ancient Hebrew calendar.

## ***2. Under the New Covenant God's people Historically Have Worshiped on the First day of the week because Jesus Arose on The First Day (Our Sunday..)***

The sign of the New Covenant is none other than the death burial and resurrection of Christ. He is the one that delivered us out of our slavery of sin, and now we are new creatures in Christ. We are a foolish nation, "HIS CHURCH" This new creature or creation is a more important creation than the physical heavens and earth that he created back in Genesis. In fact this old creation will someday be dissolved and burnt up.

II Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

II Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The reason that the early church broke bread the first day of the week was because Jesus arose the first day of the week. We now celebrate and look forward to this new creation

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

So we meet every Sunday and set aside this day for the lord. On this day we celebrate Christ's victory over death and offer of new life to all who believe. We celebrate the New Covenant!

II Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the new creation, on the first day of the week. We have a better Sabbath. We have a better rest to enter into.

So this is why the early church in the book of Acts choose to worship the first day of the week! If the apostles ordained and followed that pattern who are we to not do the same. In fact I think they did both .. They worshipped on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and broke bread on the first day. However, when Paul established gentile churches, I believe he just had them meet the first day of the week. That is why you see references to the first day of the week in the book of acts. When Paul sought to evangelize the Jews he went to the synagogues on the 7<sup>th</sup> day or on the Sabbath. So we read...

I Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

I Corinthians 9:21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

Paul as very clear that under the New Covenant we have more freedom to set days of worship based on the needs or the assembly and not based on Old Testament Jewish custom and laws. I believe we should keep the spirit of the law and we are not under the letter of the law. The spirit of the law would have us discern the purpose of the Sabbath and the Old Testament feasts and not get wrapped up with the actual calendar days based on the lunar calendar. We do not have a lunar calendar, and our calendar is totally different. We have go with what we have. When the Lord returns he will straighten that all out and set the world straight.

Paul put it this way:

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath [days]:

Colossians 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body [is] of Christ.

**3. WE NEED TO WORSHIP THE WAY OUR LORD DIRECTS US AND NOT ACCORDING TO PERSONAL WHIM OR DESIRE, REMEMBER THIS IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE CHOOSE TO ASSEMBLE AND NOT BASED ON YOUR WHIM OR CAPRICE**

Since the beginning of history the first division and fight in the human race was over how to worship God..

Cain had his idea of what was an acceptable sacrifice..  
Abel decided to follow what he was taught by his parents..

And so this battle continues.. we have a lot of new ideas.. about worshipping God..

**1. THIS HAS BEEN AN AGE OLD FIGHT..**

Israel fell into it.. DIVISIONS OVER THIS ISSUE OF WORSHIP AND THE DIVISIONS WORSENERD WHEN THE NATION DIVIDED

Deuteronomy 12:10 But [when] ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and [when] he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

Deuteronomy 12:11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

Deuteronomy 12:12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that [is] within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

Deuteronomy 12:13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

Deuteronomy 12:14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

## ***2. THIS AGE OLD BATTLE IS OVER WHO DECIDES HOW WHEN AND WHERE TO WORSHIP TWO THOUGHTS.. CONCERNING THIS..***

**Humanism**.. says.. I should decide and it doesn't matter as long as I worship God.. what is the difference?

**The Bible says**.. God chooses... and He does not bless our own ideas outside of His Word

Jesus told the woman at the well that we need to worship in Spirit and in truth..

We need to understand the spirit of the law..

We need to understand the Biblical truth and purpose for assembling..

### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

***Israel had high places where they worshipped.. these violated both the spirit and truth that was given to the nation in that day!***

#### ***A. Jeroboam wanting to Keep Israel From Returning To The Judean Kings.. Established His Own High Places..***

I Kings 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

I Kings 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, [even] unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

I Kings 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves [of] gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

I Kings 12:29 And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan.

I Kings 12:30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went [to worship] before the one, [even] unto Dan.

I Kings 12:31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

I Kings 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that [is] in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Beth-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

I Kings 12:33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, **[even] in the month which he had devised of his own heart;** and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

I Kings 13:1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

I Kings 13:2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

### **B. ULTIMATLEY THESE HIGH PLACES WERE THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL**

II Kings 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor [by] the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

II Kings 17:7 For [so] it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

II Kings 17:9 And the children of Israel did secretly [those] things that [were] not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

### **B. THEY DID NOT KEEP THE SABATHS AS COMMANDED..**

II Chronicles 36:14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 36:15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

II Chronicles 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till [there was] no remedy.

II Chronicles 36:17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave [them] all into his hand.

II Chronicles 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: [for] as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

God's people under the Old Covenant decided for themselves how they would worship and it was their demise and destruction.



Let me suggest that the demise of the Church will be when we abandon God and try to do things the way we want to in the New Testament Church. Just as Jeroboam devised a way to worship in his own heart, so too people today are devising ways to worship Jesus in their own hearts.

In the Bible God called these places of worship "High Places"

The problem is that the church of Christ has raised up many high places even today. The high places were an abomination to God, and there is no reason that that has not changed. A high place today is worshipping God based on cultural preferences rather than Biblical patterns and mandates.

***II. Under the Old Covenant God had Special Feast Days That God's People Were Commanded to Assemble together for..***

***1. There were 7 feasts..***

***There were three feasts that were mandatory for all the Israelites to assemble together for..***

***A. The one feast that will be mandatory for the whole world to celebrate someday will be the feast of tabernacles..***

The Jews were forbidden to neglect these feasts and ordinances. Yet they did and in turn they were punished for it.

There is one of these Old Testament feasts that will carry over into the New Covenant.. Zechariah 14 mentions it:

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that [have] no [rain]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Again we see a pattern in scripture. In fact our whole form of worship in the New Testament is patterned after the Jewish pattern of worshipping in the Synagogue. So

why should we not follow this pattern with a yearly week long time of worship. God wanted his people to dedicate a week to Him.

To do something different. A time when all the people of God would gather together and worship him.

He told them to meet outside in temporary buildings.. booths.. which God called the feast of Tabernacles..

We try to follow this pattern by having our yearly revival meeting this same month and week in our gentile calendar. The Bible says, that this feast should be held the one week on the 7th month and 15th day of the month. The ancient Jews had a different calendar than we have. Their calendar was a lunar calendar. The holidays and feasts days always started on the same day of the week every year.

The feast of tabernacles in the Old Testament was kept

The 7th Month .. 15th day of the month for 7 days..

So we meet that same week.. for 7 days. We follow the pattern but cannot follow the exact calendar.

I can't help but think that God will bless us for following this pattern..

We should follow the pattern of weekly worship..

We should follow the pattern of annual worship.. I think you need a week of saturation in the word of God..

You need a time where you spend listening to the word of God.

You need a time set aside to be with God's people.

We have people that think that the Old Testament law and ordinances are not valuable for New Testament Gentile believers. If that is true than why is God going to mandate that the whole world keep the feast of tabernacles in the millennial kingdom?

And what happens if these people do not come up to the feast. The Lord says he will punish them by not giving them rain.

Rain is essential to growth of crops. You are likened to God's crops and vineyard. Let me suggest that if you want to grow in the Lord you need to set aside a week to saturate yourself in worshipping the Lord and assembling yourself together. We have a good time for your to do that in July!

We are calling these meetings Tabernacle Meetings, after the Biblical feast of tabernacles.

***III. What was so significant about this feast that it will carry over into Into the New Covenant and Into the Millennium?***

The First Temple was dedicated on this feast week

I Kings 8:2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which [is] the seventh month.

The feast of tabernacles is a millennial feast.

- 1. OUR BODIES ARE CALLED A TABERANCLE..**
- 2. THIS TABERNACLE SHOULD BE A HUMBLE PLACE  
IT IS A TIME OF HUMBLING OURSELVES BEFORE GOD..**
- 3. THIS TABERNACLE IS ONLY TEMPORARY**
- 4. THIS TABERNACLE WILL SOMEDAY BE DISOLVED**
- 5. THIS TABERNACLE IS WHAT WE NEED TO DEDICATE TO GOD..**
- 6. THIS TABERNACLE WILL SOMEDAY BE CHANGED**

We used to set up a tent for these meetings. However, Brother Stewart retired and is no longer able to come up with us. So this year we are going to have our meetings in our New Pavilion. We are going to set up a temporary platform in the building, and will be meeting out there to make our meetings different and special. Now if you want some spiritual rain in your life come out to these meetings. If you don't come, don't be surprised if God don't send spiritual rain in your life!

#### **IV. HOW DEDICATED ARE YOU TO ASSEMBLING YOURSELF TOGETHER.....**

Your dedication to his church is your greatest outward expression of your dedication to God..

I have dedicated my life to God..

My dedication to God started after I got baptized...

You will never experience the blessing of God in your life.. until you are baptized.. baptism is the first step of obedience after you are saved..

- 1. SAVED THEN After Salvation I was Baptized..**
- 2. One of the first things after I got Baptized was to become faithful to my local church..**
- 3. The second thing I started to do was tithed.. to the local church**

4. *I also started to read through the Bible in a year devotional dairy.. and time of prayer..*
5. *I also sought to be dedicated and be used of the church in a local ministry.. Choir, Music, Sunday, DVBS..*

### **Invitation**

When were you saved?

When Were You Baptized

What Ministry are you involved in in the local church???

Are you faithful in assembling yourself together..

Will you come out faithfully to our week of tabernacle meetings?

### **Consider this text:**

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

Hebrews 10:25 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.

Don't forsake assembling yourself together. The word assemble is the same word that is translated Church. My question to you are you part of the Elkdale Baptist Church? If you are part of the Elkdale Baptist Church how committed are you to obeying this command?

### **NOW BY WAY OF APPLICATION I AM GOING TO ASK A SIMPLE QUESTION:**

The Elkdale Baptist Church is going to meet and assemble themselves together for one whole week in the Month of July to have tabernacle meetings. My question to you is this are you going to obey Hebrews 10:25 and assemble together or are you going to choose to forsake then assembling of yourself together.

If you consider yourself to be part of the Elkdale Baptist Church and you choose to forsake the assembling of yourself together, then are you being disobedient to Hebrews 10:25? I think you are if you're thinking Biblically, and spiritually!

I am going to ask you another question?

Do you consider the Elkdale Baptist Church to be your local church? When does the Elkdale Baptist Church assemble every week? Are you planning to assemble every week with the church and how faithful are you to obeying Hebrews 10:25 in this matter.

This is the invitation and challenge for you this Sunday Morning...