

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Examples of Regular Assembling

(Jerry Fite)

Christians were exhorted to assemble with their brethren and not forsake or turn away from assembling “*as the custom of some is*” (Hebrews 10:25). God’s response to difficult and dangerous circumstances is for God’s people to assemble together more, not less. Maintaining a heart full of faith, holding fast to Christ - the confession of our hope, and arousing our fellow Christians unto love and good works are accomplished by assembling, not by forsaking assembling. If one wants to keep his faith focused, and faithfulness strong, he or she will develop the habit of assembling regularly.

In the New Testament, we have some good examples of assembling regularly.

Jesus regularly assembled in the local synagogue. “*And He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and He entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read*” (Luke 4:16). Under the Law of Moses, all were to remember the sabbath day to keep is holy. As seventh day of

the week came, Jews ceased from their daily occupations and assembled in the synagogue in their community. It was a habitual practice, not just a mere occasional appearance of Jesus meeting with his fellow Jews where they met on the Sabbath day.

Paul assembled with the Jews every Sabbath day. “*And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath day, and persuaded Jews and Greeks*” (Acts 18:4). While Paul was in Corinth he habitually assembled with Jews and Greeks in order to teach them the Gospel. How strong was he in assembling? He assembled “*every*” seventh day for the teaching opportunity.

New Testament Christians assembled regularly on the first day of the week. “*And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered to break bread, Paul discoursed with them, intending to depart on the morrow. .*” (Acts 20:7). Just as every sabbath day was to be kept holy, Christians under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s apostles, assembled on the first day of

the week. Notice it was the first day of the week when Christians gathered together. So, when the first day rolled around, Christians assembled together to partake of the Lord’s supper (break bread – I Corinthians 11:23-26), and give as they had prospered (*cf. I Corinthians 16:2*).

Assembling with the saints in Troas was important to Paul and Luke. They had traveled from Macedonia which took five days and stayed in Troas for seven days before they left early on the second day of the week. They delayed their departure to meet with the saints on the first day of the week.

Regular assembling was a strong characteristic of the newly established church. “*And day by day*” they continued “*stedfastly with one accord in the temple*” (Acts 2:46). This week we will be assembling together daily to preach the Gospel. It is clear Jesus, the apostles, and Christians in the first century would be assembling daily with us. Will you? Assembling regularly is a habit of the spiritually strong.