

THE JOY AND NECESSITY OF GATHERED WORSHIP

JUNE 4, 2023

The “test of the catacombs”

If all of life is worship, what makes gathered worship unique?

Hebrews 10:24–25

1. There are unique _____ from God about what do when we gather.
2. There is unique _____ to what we do when we gather.
3. There is unique _____ to God when we gather.
4. There is unique _____ for the rest of our life of worship.

Hebrews 10:19–25

Who gathers for Christian worship?

Hebrews 12:28–29

Psalm 95:6–7

Confusion arises:

- When churches craft worship _____ to appeal to unbelievers.
- When the emotional power of the worship service is _____ but the truths of the gospel are _____.
- When attending a powerful worship experience falsely assures attendees that they are right with God.
- When churchgoers think that a once-a-week worship experience is _____, so that they do not understand the meaning of the local church and their responsibilities to it.

Why should you gather for Christian worship?

1. Because you _____

Hebrews 10:25

a. You must because the church is a _____

Hebrews 2:12

Psalm 34:3; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:23, 34-35

- b. You must because you are part of the heavenly gathering that must be expressed on earth**

Hebrews 13

- c. You must because the church is the temple of God on earth**

Ephesians 2:19–22 You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

- d. You must because whole-life worship is fiercely opposed**

Hebrews 3:13–14 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

2. Because you anticipate the _____

- a. Gathered worship brings God joy**

Hebrews 12:2, 22-24

Jeremiah 33:9–11 And this city [Jerusalem] shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.¹⁰ “Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you

say, 'It is a waste without man or beast,' in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man or inhabitant or beast, there shall be heard again ¹¹ the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord: " 'Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.

b. Gathered worship brings you joy

Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 3:18; Colossians 2:2, 3:15

Psalm 122:1 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*