

“Attending Church? Advance Preparation Suggested”
“Getting the Most Out of Church” — Part 5
Hebrews 10:21-25

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:15-21

Review:

1. We go to church because we belong together around God.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

2. We go to church because we need a spurring on.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:24

***“Assembly and fellowship are
two evidences of vital faith.”***
Wycliffe Bible Commentary

Advance Preparation Suggested

Preparation #1: The choice of faithful attendance.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing...
Hebrews 10:25

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...
1 Peter 3:15

Application: One of the most important things you can do each week before it is time for church is to plan to show up. Because of the importance God places on church, it needs to become more than a negotiable in our schedule. We need to plan other things around church rather than church around other things. Church is also a place to invite others; don't keep it to yourself.

Preparation #2: The preparation of your heart.

...since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...

Hebrews 10:21-22

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...

Colossians 4:2-3

Application: There is plenty to pray about before you get to church. Pray for opportunities for encouragement and growth to present themselves at church, both personally and for your church family.

Preparation #3: The decision to engage your mind.

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.

Hebrews 10:23-24

...When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation...All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:26

Application: Encouraging and stimulating one another to greater love and maturity in Christ is an exercise that takes thought and preparation in advance. It is not just the pastor's responsibility. We each need to be seeking God for our part in encouraging the growth He desires.