

**ADDRESSING SPIRITUAL DECLINE-PART 3  
RESTORING A REVERENCE FOR GOD’S HOUSE  
HEBREWS 10:24-25**

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**INTRODUCTION**

We have been addressing the matter of **SPIRITUAL DECLINE** for a couple of weeks now! Every time we see **SPIRITUAL DECLINE** in Scripture (or even outside of Scripture for that matter), its root cause is **A LACK OF REVERENCE FOR THE WORD OF GOD!**

**Examples:** Adam and Eve  
The Days of Noah  
The Nation Of Israel From Her Beginning Even Until Now  
Our Nation  
The 7 Churches Of Asia That Our Lord Addressed  
Churches today  
Families today

Last week we saw that in order to reverse **SPIRITUAL DECLINE** we need to **RESTORE A REVERENCE FOR THE WORD OF GOD!**

We saw that means

**SEEING THE BIBLE FOR THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD  
THAT IT IS!**

**SEEING THE BIBLE AS TRUE IN ITS ENTIRETY!**

**SEEING THAT THE BIBLE IS ETERNAL IN ITS TRUTH!**

**SEEING THAT THE BIBLE IS ABSOLUTE IN ITS  
PROFITABILITY!**

**A FAILURE IN ANY OF THESE IS A LACK OF REVERENCE FOR THE WORD OF GOD THAT WILL SHOW ITSELF IN OUR LIVING IN THE SAME WAY THAT A REVERENCE FOR THE WORD OF GOD WILL ALSO SHOW ITSELF IN OUR LIVING!**

**And that is where I want to plant and preach a while this morning.  
HOW IS REVERENCE FOR GOD’S WORD SHOWN?**

**The short answer is: OBEDIENCE!** So, let’s begin with one area today:

**OUR REVERENCE FOR GOD’S WORD OR LACK THEREOF IS SHOWN BY OUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TOWARD THE HOUSE OF GOD!** (Laodicean Church – *“Thou sayest...and knowest not.”*)

**IF WE RESTORE A REVERENCE FOR GOD’S WORD, ALONG WITH THAT COMES A REVERENCE AND A FAITHFULNESS FOR GOD’S HOUSE! HOW IS THAT SO?**

**I. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD’S HOUSE IS COMMANDED IN HIS WORD!**

*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.”*

**Now, that verse of Scripture (BY ITSELF!) ought to be enough to settle the matter once and for all for every Believer!** But sadly, it is not! Some just don’t see it that way!

**Faithfulness in attending God’s House...(and by that we are talking about the assembling of the saints together whenever we meet), it is a COMMAND to be obeyed, NOT an OPTION to be considered!**

**Listen to me, when a child of God intentionally misses Church, they’re being disobedient to a clear command of the Word of God!**

Our attitude about that command speaks **VOLUMES** regarding our **REVERENCE FOR THE WORD GOD!**

**Our attitude should be, “God said it in His Word and that settles it!” and then be found in our rightful place every time the opportunity presents itself and we are not otherwise “providentially hindered”!**

**Now, that is not a Biblical term, but it does describe something that we see in Scripture. You’ve heard of the proverbial “ox in the ditch”. Well, technically speaking it is “ox in the pit”.**

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*Luke 14:5-6 – “5 And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day? 6 And they could not answer him again to these things.”*

*(e.g. Water line breaks, car won't start...things of that nature)*

**So, exactly what is a “providential hindrance”? Here's a definition:**  
*“It is to be prevented from participating in an event, activity, or sequence of events in which we try our best to accomplish, but due to circumstances beyond human control it is made impossible for us, thus attributing the hindrance to the intervention of God for His purposes.”*

**Some examples:**

**You might be sick or injured or having to help someone who is...**

**You might have a death in the family or other family emergency...**

**You might be required to work by your employer...**

**Or you might have something else that is beyond your control...**

**Just be careful that you are not manufacturing your own hindrances! I'm talking about the kind that keep you out of God's house but nothing else that you really WANT to do!**

So, when it comes to the matter of the LORD's house, we should be like the Psalmist in *Psalm 122:1*—*“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”*

Now, as I preach a message such as this, there is most always a resistance that can be felt, because some just don't believe to be that way! *If you think I'm wrong, come with your Bible and show me where I'm wrong! And I'm not trying to put you under law! This has NOTHING to do with our salvation, but only our obedience!*

I'm just sharing with you the **PLAIN TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD!** That's my calling, I'm just doing what the LORD has called me to do, AND realize that if you have a problem, that problem is with God, not me!

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**The LORD is pleased when we look for a way to be in His House! Not when we try to find an excuse NOT to be here!**  
**Missing Church service (and I'm talking about “the assembling of the saints”) when it is in your power to be here is really an act of disobedience against the LORD's command...plain and simple.**  
*Luke 6:46—“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

*John 14:15 – “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*

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

Listen, I want you to understand that the LORD is **NOT** a cruel taskmaster in wanting us as His children to be faithful to every service of the Assembly, the Church! It is for **OUR BENEFIT!**

*FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S HOUSE IS COMMANDED IN HIS WORD!*

**II. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S HOUSE HELPS US MAINTAIN A GOOD TESTIMONY!**

*Hebrews 10:25—“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;...”*

The idea of what the writer is saying there is that **there were some of these Hebrew Believers whose manner (i.e. their practice, their custom, or their habit) WAS forsaking the assembling of the Believers together!** He was actually frowning on this practice!

**Now, why did he frown on that? I'll get to that in a moment...**

Now, let's assume for a moment that you have arrived in your spiritual life as a Believer...YOU HAVEN'T, but let's assume you have.

And let's assume that you **don't** think you need all that FELLOWSHIP and EDIFICATION that comes from meeting together with other fellow Believers...YOU DO, but let's assume you don't!

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And let's assume that you know everything that you need to know in the Word of God already (after all, you are saved and on your way to Heaven and that's good enough for you)! Now, YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING you need to know, but let's just assume that you do!

So, what else are you leaving out? And, by the way, you ARE leaving something out that is very, very important! **YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE OTHERS and it's IMPACT on them!**

When you **FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY** you **DEMONSTRATE** that you don't really care about the **LORD or OTHERS!** (I'm talking about what you **demonstrate** to others by your lack of faithfulness!)  
**Now stay with me...**

**A. Missing Church Is A Poor Testimony Before Unbelievers!**  
It doesn't **demonstrate** love for the LORD that we say we have! *(And even many unbelievers can see right through that!)*

**Let me give you a real life example:**

At times we have had people come visit our Church because someone from our Church invited them and/or gave them a Gospel tract with our Church info! That's great and I hope you do that!

But when these folks show up to Church and that person who invited them is not here because they didn't believe coming to all the services was all that important, how do you think that guest you invited is impacted by that?

*(Well, I can tell you that for one, it's embarrassing to me as your Pastor trying to come up with an answer for that and sadly, it has happened more times than I care to tell you!)*

But worse than that, many of those folks usually NEVER come back! Think about it! Will some unbeliever be negatively influenced by our lack of faithfulness such that they NEVER come to trust Christ?

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Whether we like it or not, men see much more in **what we DO** than in **what we SAY**, and our unfaithfulness just might be the cause of some lost soul remaining lost for ever!

**B. Missing Church Is A Poor Testimony Before Believers!**  
As believers, we are called to edify one another, Amen!  
When you **don't come** to the services you can't edify anyone!  
In fact, often times you can be a **discouragement** to others!  
*(e.g. Your pastor and others like Bro. Jim!)*

Think of Believers that are young in the LORD or weak in the faith and the influence it can have on them?

Think of Believers who come visit our Church looking for a new Church home and what it tells them about our Church!

**C. Missing Church Is A Poor Testimony Before Your Family!**  
Do you want to know one of the main reasons that I've been faithful over the years to the house of God like I am?

My Dad and my Mom **showed me a pattern of faithfulness!**  
Is that important? It most certainly was to me!

We need to have the same attitude as Joshua of old had!  
*"...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

We are either teaching **faithfulness** or a **lack of faithfulness** with our lives!

*FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S HOUSE IS COMMANDED IN HIS WORD...HELPS US MAINTAIN A GOOD TESTIMONY...*

**III. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S HOUSE HELPS KEEP US FROM MISSING OUT ON WHAT THE LORD HAS FOR US!**  
And some might argue that they can catch up with the services by listening to them online.

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That's good and that's what they are there for! But do you go catch up when you are out?

I know that some of you do indeed! But don't say that you can catch up online if you don't make an effort to catch the service online!

But could I also tell you that, because the whole service isn't on there, you are still missing out! Sometimes what the LORD might have for you at a particular moment is found in a song or a hymn or a testimony or a word of encouragement from someone else or even in a prayer!

**Conclusion**

Now this *RESTORING A REVERENCE FOR GOD'S HOUSE* is **not** something that affects our salvation in any way! Praise the LORD for that!

Coming to Church is NOT going to get you to heaven! Only repenting of your sin and trusting Christ's finished work on the cross of Calvary can do that!

Not Coming to Church is NOT going to keep you from getting to Heaven if you are a Child of God!

But that doesn't mean it doesn't affect us! We've been addressing the matter of **SPIRITUAL DECLINE** and what we have talked about can have a impact on our **SPIRITUAL LIVES!** And that's important for both now and the time that we stand before the LORD Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat Of Christ!

It is important now, because this hit and miss Church attendance must cease if we are to recover from the **SPIRITUAL DECLINE** that we see in our nation and in our Churches and in our families, and in our own personal lives!