

Celebrating God at Church, Part 5 | the consequences of neglect

I. Important Warning

- Remember that if you start going to church simply because the consequences of not going frightens you . . . you're not going for the right reason.
- That's a selfish motivation. It's self-serving. Even if it's fear for your kids, it's not the motivation we should have.
- I pray that your ongoing desire to darken the door of your local assembly is nothing more than realizing that God is awesome and He deserves our obedience. And assembling together is His command.

II. Consequences of Neglect

- **We will receive the Primary Consequences of our Sin.** Our relationship with the Lord will be strained. The God who purchased our salvation and provided a way to restore our relationship with Him will be ignored as we do our yard work, watch our football, or catch up on some needed rest.
- **We'll miss out on the purpose of church.**
 - We won't be equipped by the pastor for the work of the ministry.
 - We won't be equipped to evangelize and we won't be equipped to do the one-anothers.
 - Hebrews 10:19-31
 - Since God has accomplished the miracle of salvation, we have three responsibilities:
 - We need to become more like God by purifying our hearts and lives.
 - We need to have hope in God because He's trustworthy.
 - We need to stir each other up in love and good works.
 - We do that by assembling together and encouraging one-another.
 - On top of that, we need to do all the one-anothers.
 - But if we neglect this grand and glorious gift and our responsibilities:
 - We greatly offend God.
 - Our sin tramples underfoot the Son of God, profanes the blood of the covenant, and outrages the Spirit of grace.
 - And we earn to ourselves consequences. *"Vengeance is mine; I will repay."* And again, *"The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*
- And we'll also miss out on all of this: Ephesians 4: 11-16, *"And he gave Pastor/Teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."*

The
Celebration
of God
podcast