

# To Forsake The Church Is To Forsake Christ

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In view of this statement, it behooves each of us to recognize the seriousness of the matter of forsaking the assembly.
2. To forsake the church is to forsake Christ who died for the church.
3. Have you ever thought of it in that light?
4. Hebrews 10: 19 - 31
5. Let us examine these verses in Hebrews carefully.

## I. TO FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY IS TO:

1. Sin willfully -- Heb. 10:26 ( a sin of habit).
  - (1) To sin willfully is to violate His law with full knowledge of it -- Heb. 10:26; Luke 12: 47 - 48
  - (2) It is a sin that is committed with a high hand and in open violation and contempt of God's law.
  - (3) To sin willfully is to sin deliberately.
  - (4) To sin willfully is to reject Christ, our only sacrifice for sin -- I John 1: 7 , 9; Rev. 1:5; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19.
  - (5) When we forsake the church, the body of Christ, we have forsaken Christ our High Priest.
2. Trod underfoot the Son of God -- Heb. 10:29
  - (1) The ancient conquerors would tread on the necks of their enemies, in token of their being subdued.
  - (2) Men also tread on that which they despise and condemn -- Matt. 5:13.
  - (3) What crime could be worse than to tread on the Son of God.
  - (4) To forsake His church and His commandments is to trod Him underfoot -- Heb. 6:6.
  - (5) When Saul persecuted the church he persecuted Christ -- Acts 9: 1 - 4.
  - (6) When you neglect the church, you neglect Christ.
3. Count the blood of the covenant (Christ's) an unholy thing.
  - (1) "Unholy" means: "impure; not sacred".
  - (2) This is the New Testament -- Matt. 26:28.
  - (3) When one does not respect the commands of the New Testament, this is the attitude he has.
  - (4) You might say, "I don't have that attitude." -- Christ said you do.
  - (5) What the blood of Christ has done for man:
    - (a) Justifies -- Rom. 5:9.
    - (b) Cleanses us from all sin -- I John 1:7.
    - (c) Redeems us -- Eph. 1:7.
    - (d) Purges our conscience from dead works -- Heb. 9: 14 - 15.
    - (e) Washes us and makes us white as snow -- Rev. 7: 13 - 14.
    - (f) We overcome Satan by the blood of Christ -- Rev. 12: 10 - 11.
    - (g) No entering heaven without it -- Heb. 10:19.
    - (h) The church was bought with it -- Acts 20: 28.
4. Do despise to the Spirit of grace.
  - (1) To the Holy Spirit -- Matt. 28:19.

- (2) Here he is called the Spirit of grace because through Him God has imparted all grace, comfort and salvation to man.
- (3) To disobey His commands and disregard the church and worship is to insult the Holy Spirit.

## **II. WHEN WE FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO EXCEPT:**

1. Judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries -- Heb. 10: 27, 28 - 30; II Thess. 1: 8 - 9.
2. Falling into the hands of the living God -- Heb. 10:31.

## **III. SOME REASONS WE NEED THE ASSEMBLIES:**

1. There can be no local church without assemblies -- Phil. 1:1
2. We need the fellowship with God that is ours in the assemblies -- Matt. 18:20; I Cor. 10: 16.
3. We need the fellowship with other Christians in these assemblies -- Acts 2: 42; Heb. 10:24.
4. These assemblies are needed to carry out the work of the church -- Eph. 4: 11 - 12.
5. The assemblies are needed, so Christ's blood can be applied to our lives -- Heb. 10:19.

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