

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

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.

I was reading an article this morning about how 40% of a demographic is not ready to go back into the actual church building now that COVID is over. It again reminded me of what the church is currently facing and what it is going to continue to face in the future. Here are a couple of paragraphs I read:

“Perhaps the deepest threat to in-person attendance comes from a cultural possibility... that we might be entering into a relatively selfish me-centered behavior that might relegate churches even farther to the sidelines than they were pre-pandemic...”

“Among the many characteristics of post-Christian, postmodern spirituality, three stand out when it comes to future attendance trends. Postmodern spirituality is: self-directed, anti-institutional, selective...”

Let me briefly allow the Word of God to come down like a hammer to smash these three characteristics of postmodern spirituality:

Self-directed - in other words, I can find the answers for everything I need in life, especially in regards to sin and salvation myself. The Word of God says:

Romans 10:14

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

You have got to have a pastor in your life to preach the Word to you, look you in the eye (not over the phone or thru text) and say, this is what you need to do in order to be saved.

We see the Ethiopian eunuch reading the scriptures and knowing that he couldn't direct himself:

Acts 8:30-31

30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Anti-institutional — in other words, “I don’t need to physically sit in a church building, or even say I BELONG to any church and I can still be saved.”

Matthew 16:18

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We all know that the church is not the actual physical building; WE ARE THE CHURCH! However, we need a building to actually sit in, a place where we can direct the sin-sick soul to in order to be saved.

Going back to our original scripture in Hebrews 10, we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves TOGETHER.

We all need to be in the house of God when the doors are opened.

Selective — in other words, since I am literally my own priest or priestess and I don’t need a church, I can be selective in my beliefs, so I literally can believe in the Acts 2:38 message, but be SELECTIVE in my beliefs towards holiness and separation from the world.

James 1:21-22

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Psalms 119:11

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Hebrews 12:14

14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

I can't be selective in regards to what I want to believe; how many times have you heard me say, "This isn't the first church of the Burger King?" There are sometimes that the Word of God won't allow me to have it MY WAY.

Are any of the lying spirits that are trying to not only attach themselves to the world but are trying to make their way into the church trying to make inroads into your spirit?

Romans 6:15-16

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

I hope this sheds a little light on the challenges that we are currently facing.

RPS