

Our Assembling Together

● *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:23-25*

- ***hold fast the confession of our hope*** ↑ GOD
- ***without wavering***
- ***consider one another*** → OUR BRETHREN
- ***in order to stir up love and good works***
- ***exhorting one another***

● Assembling Together GOD

- There are two important elements to our assembly. The first is to our focus on God:
- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Jn 4:23-24*
- We are here to worship God, remember Jesus and honor the guidance of our other comforter – The Holy Spirit!

Instructions Regarding Worship

- **Lord's Supper** 1Cor. 11:17-34
 - **Singing** Eph 5:19
 - **Praying** 1Tim 2:8
 - **Preaching** 2Tim 4:1-4
 - **Giving** Cor. 16:1-2
- 1Cor. 14:15-16, 26
- No instructions on sequence, time for each, etc.
 - But they must be done without deviation or they cease to be in spirit and truth and we cease to be genuine worshipers.
 - *In vain do they worship me teaching as doctrines the commands/traditions of men.*

Dangers of Repetition

- At first, these things generate excitement.
- We are attentive to everything.
- But after 20, 30, 40, 50 years – Are we still as enthusiastic and excited?

Losing Our First Love

- Problem at Ephesus, all the right things but without the enthusiasm and true faith.



Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent. Rev 2:4-6



This is the interim period

The Interim Period

- *Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. Mk 4:18-20*
- What happens next? They left their first love to become choked, they are no longer zealous and excited but only going through the motions, becoming weak, sick or sleeping.
- Some stay in the period for years, but others move to the next step.

The Interim Period

- Some stay in the period for years, but others move to the next step. As the first love cools, they are open to new things to regenerate the excitement.
- *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2Tim. 4:3-5*

Israel in Days of Malachi

- *"A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Mal 1:6*
- *"Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the Lord of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you. ... Mal. 1:10*

A Problem with Worship

- *“But you are profaning it, in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is contemptible’ 13 “You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’” And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, Mal. 1:10-13*

“O What a Weariness?”

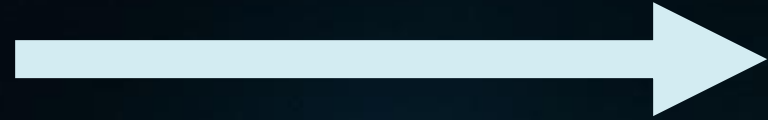
- We always have 5 acts of worship.
- Doing same week after week after week!
- We can change the order, the number of songs, length or prayers, sermon topics
- But we cannot change what God asked us to do to honor Him.
- Some are sneering (interim period)
- Others have changed it (fables).
- What about us? Are we still excited and enthusiastic about each act (have 1st love)!

Instructions – “*spirit*”

- **Lord’s Supper** *A worthy manner in remembrance of me. Emotions are strong 1Cor. 11:17-34*
- **Singing** *making melody Eph. 5:19*
- **Praying** *listen intently – Amen 1Tim. 2:1*
- **Preaching** *swift to hear 2Tim. 4:1-4*
- **Giving** *cheerful, purposeful 1Cor. 16:1-2*
- These are the elements of our “*first love,*” before they are “*choked with cares, riches and desires.*”
- If we enter this “interim period” when these things become stale, we have “*left our first love*”
- *Worship* is no longer *genuine* – becoming *vain*.
- Next Step – *forsake* or turn to *fables*.

Our Assembling Together

OUR BRETHREN



And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another Heb 10:24

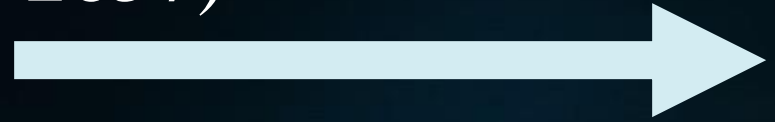
Consider how to stimulate one another NAS

Consider one another to provoke ASV

Consider, Stir up & Exhort

- *katanoëo* ... *to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon:* (Thayer, NT 2657)

- **OUR BRETHREN**



- **(1).** *òxūno* ... originally “to sharpen” ... but transferred like the composite *paroxúno* ... “to spur on, stimulate” ... “incitement” ...” (Kittel TDWNT # 3947)

- **(2).** “*parakaleo*... I. *to call to ones side, call for, summon*:... which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc. hence result a variety of senses...(Thayer, NT: 3870)

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- **Truth** defines activities & **spirit** defines the heart and soul we put into each one of them
- Focus is toward God, **and** our brethren.
 - *you come together not for the better but for the worse. 1Cor. 11:17*
 - *speaks unto men **edification**, and **exhortation**, and **comfort** 1Cor. 14:3*
 - *That the church might receive **edifying** 14:5*
 - *Abound to the **edifying** of the church. 14:12*
 - *Let all things be done unto **edifying**. 14:26*
- *Spirit and Truth applies to God and our brethren*

Our Assembly

- God has given us His instructions:
- We are here to worship God in spirit and truth
- We are **also** here to consider one another
- We are **also** here to stir up love and good works
- We are **also** here to exhort one another
- We are **also** here to edify one another

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- Begins the moment we walk through the door
- Happy and excited to be here.
- Interested in all others.
- Do not just focus on friends/family
- Seeking to set the tone for the worship:
 - 1. We are excited to be here.
 - 2. We are excited everyone else is here.
 - 3. We manifest this in our greeting.
 - 4. Care and concern; exhortation & stimulation.
- All of this even before we worship in spirit and truth.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

● PREACHING:

● Preacher:

- Be urgent in season and out. 1Tim 4:2
- God is entreating through us. 2Cor 5:20
- Love, a pure heart; good conscience, sincere faith 1Tim 1:3-6

● Hearer

- Be swift to hear and do. Jas 1:19-25
- Receive the word with all readiness of mind, Searching the Scriptures. Acts 17:11

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- SINGING:
 - **Speaking one to another**... singing Eph 5:19
 - making melody in your heart to the Lord.
 - There must be emotions in the songs!
 - Enthusiasm, joy, faith, fear, etc.
 - Teaching and admonishing one another Col 3:16
 - Singing with grace in your heart.
 - The grace in our hearts must be heard/felt
- Song leader – songs you select and way you sing them! We speak to one another what you choose

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- PRAYING:
 - The one praying:
 - Men lifting up holy hands
 - No wrath or disputing. 1Tim 2:8
 - Don't make it a weariness – vain repetitions or too many things to remember.
 - Those who hear.
 - Listening intently to say Amen with feeling. 1Cor 14:15-16

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- The Lord's Supper
 - Come together for the better. 1 Cor 11:17-34
 - This do in remembrance of me
 - Bread – my body broken for you.
 - Fruit of the vine – blood of the new covenant shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - A time of reverence, awe, thanksgiving, grief.
- Those who lead... not a sermon... just an exhortation then a prayer to give thanks.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

● Giving

- As purposed in heart. Have it ready. 1Cor. 16:1-2
- A willing mind. 2Cor. 8:12
- Not grudging or of necessity but cheerfully. 2Cor. 9:7
- Gratitude, appreciation, thankfulness...

We must Examine Ourselves

- How do we feel about our worship in spirit and truth?
- Stimulating and exciting still after all these years (Still feel our first love)?
- Remember acts and emotions are directed by God. Part of our duty to keep them exciting.
- Don't ever be guilty, feeling it is contemptible doing same things over and over, year after year
- Don't ever be guilty of seeing it as a weariness.
- Don't ever sneer at it.