What Should You Get out of Church (our assembly)?

Intro:
- Why are you here? Why should you be here? What do you get from being here?
  - important questions for each person to answer for themselves – want to help you answer
- this lesson: What Should You Get out of Church (our assembly)?

You have to put something into it, before you can get anything out! – church, assembly
- Jn. 4:21-24 Samaritan woman at well, worship in spirit and truth – heart and mind, according to word
  - not idle observer, active in worship, active participant
- Heb. 10:22-25 draw near, hold fast confession, stimulate one another, not forsake assembly
  - active toward brethren, others first and self second – Phil. 2:3-4
- 2 Cor. 13:11-12 greet one another, holy, kiss is a cultural expedient
  - commanded to greet – encourage with one-on-one interaction
  - must be present, must be engaged – address health issues
  - be dedicated to putting forth the energy to be engaged during the entire service
    - saying: before you can take something out, you have to put something in – e.g., bank account, marriage, friendship – before God saved us, He gave Jesus
  - self examination

What happens when you don’t fulfill your responsibility in the assembly? – illus. Corinth
- 1 Cor. 11:17-19 brethren, improper behavior, assembly for the worse – not fulfilling responsibility
- 1 Cor. 11:30 many spiritually dead – not fulfill responsibility with LS – not worship in spirit
  - illus.: Dad, elder, observation, when a person stops going to church, it is the beginning of the end, soon turn away from God and live in the world – spiritually dead at assembly, spiritually dead inside

- What are some ways we can neglect our responsibility in the assembly? – 1 Cor. 11:17-29, 30
  - not attend, choose to do other things (illus.: band member, not go to practice, show up at game)
  - sleep rather than pay attention (illus.: stay out too late, vs. medication or work)
  - daydream, thinking of things other than the things we are doing as a church
  - play with friends, talking, passing notes (note: young children), distracting others
  - distracting behavior that can be avoided: – distracts self and others
    - going to the bathroom and water fountain when not absolutely necessary
    - playing around in the back, rather than returning ASAP
    - joke: I know the tricks because I did some of them when I was child, wrong

- What are some ways we can prevent negligence?
  - realize the importance and seriousness of assembling with the saints (going to church)

  - God commands it, you’ll be judged regarding you attendance and worship, your life will be better in every respect – Ex. 19:10-15, 16-17; 20:18 – Heb. 10:26-31 – 2 Cor. 5:10
    - the church is the temple of God – where do you want to be when the church assemble? – if Jesus returned when the church was assembling, where do you want to be, what do you want to be doing
  - be prepared

  - Matt. 25:1-13 parable of the ten virgins – wise prepared, foolish not – which are you
    - rested, lessons prepared, prayed, engaged, plan what you want to accomplish, ready to worship
  - realize God and Jesus are here – where 2 or 3 are gathered
- What would you do if the president was here?
- Do you do the same, or more, knowing God is here?

➢ What happens when you fulfill your responsibility when assembling to worship and study?
  - blessed
    - Acts 20:35b “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Jesus) – give to God, brethren

➢ - spiritually uplifted, happy, satisfied, enriched – Jn. 4:24
  - worship God the way He wants to be worshiped, as He commands, not as men command
    - spirit and truth – cf. Paul in Athens, unknown god
    - proclaiming Christ’s death – LS
    - speaking to Him in prayer and song
    - admonished and encouraged in song
    - learning more about Him and His word
    - contributing to the work of the church and need of saints

➢ - spiritually stimulated and empowered
  - stimulated to live as a Christian: motivated, stronger, encouraged – better for being present and participating
  - stronger from spiritual fellowship: - 1 Cor. 15:33 the inverse is true - holy companions encourage good morals
  - stronger (empowered) from study of God’s word: - Rom. 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13; Eph. 3:20
    - illus.: - Neh. 8:1-3, 4, 5-6, 7-8, 9, 10-12 Israel strengthened, reading of word, weep, rejoice
    - 2 Th. 2:10 love the truth – If you love the truth. . . .

➢ Summary / Inv.
  - What is the result of your assembling with the church?
  - If not the right result, what should you do?
  - inv.: saved, added to church, begin receiving these benefits