

## REASONS FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

### HEBREWS 10:10-25

Introduction:

In his excellent exposition of the letter to the Hebrews, Pastor Kent Hughes sets forth some compelling reasons for faithful church attendance.

Consider what he says with me.

#### *Ontology*

The first is “ecclesial ontology,” the special existence—the being or presence—of Christ in the gathered church.

#### *Doxology*

Next, if you absent yourself from church, you will encumber your ability to glorify God in worship. Congregational worship makes possible an intensity of adoration that does not as readily occur in solitude.

Martin Luther spoke of this when he confided, “At home in my own house there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.”

#### *Theology*

It is also true that giving up meeting with other believers hampers one’s theology and doctrinal understanding. Paul, in Ephesians 3:18, prays that the

church in Ephesus “may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp... and to know this love that surpasses knowledge” Great theological truths are best learned corporately—“with all the saints” Theology is to be done by the assembled church.

### ***Psychology***

Lastly, there is the matter of psychology—not in the sense of the study of the psyche, the soul—but rather its development. For example, the virtue of love enjoined by the second half of the Decalogue requires others for its development. One theoretically may be able to develop *faith* and *hope* while alone (though even this is questionable), but not *love*! Developing love is a communal activity of the church.