

The Blessing Of The Assembly

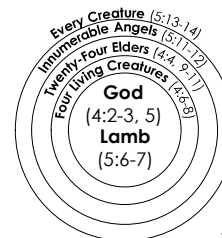
Acts 20:6-7

1

The Assembly Preserves A God-Centered View

The universe is centered around God

- Much like the throne scene in Revelation



2

The Assembly Preserves A God-Centered View

The assembly is an example of this, and keeps us properly oriented

- Consider the Lord's Supper
 - Acts 20:7 – "... gathered together"
 - I Corinthians 10:16-17 – "... a participation in the blood ... body"
 - I Corinthians 11:26 – "you proclaim the Lord's death ..."

3

The Assembly Preserves A God-Centered View

The assembly is an example of this, and keeps us properly oriented

- Consider the singing
 - Colossians 3:16 – "with thankfulness in your hearts to God"
- Same for preaching, praying, and giving.

4

The Assembly Preserves A God-Centered View

The assembly is an example of this, and keeps us properly oriented

- The assembly properly shapes our perspective in a world which seeks to warp it – Psalms 73
 - Disoriented – verses 1-3
 - Doubt – verses 13-14
 - The place of correction – verses 15-17
 - A renewed perspective – verses 25-26, 28

5

The Assembly Fills The Need For Fellowship

Man is Created in God's Image

- Genesis 1:26 – "... in our image"
- Spiritual
 - Ecclesiastes 12:7 – "the spirit returns to God"
 - cf. John 4:24 – "worship in spirit ..."
- Plural
 - Genesis 1:27 – "male and female he created them"
 - Genesis 2:18 – "I will make him a helper"

6

The Assembly Fills The Need For Fellowship

Man is Created in God's Image

- God's nature cannot be separated from the concepts of relationship and fellowship
 - Acts 17:29 – "... God's offspring"
 - II Corinthians 13:14 – "... the fellowship of the Holy Spirit ..."
 - John 16:12-15 – "All that the Father has is mine"
- Believers called to the same "oneness"
 - John 17:20-21 – "that they may all be one"

7

The Assembly Fills The Need For Fellowship

The assembly is the central place for fellowship

- The church immediately engaged in fellowship
 - Acts 2:42 – "... they devoted themselves to ... fellowship"
- Regular assemblies
 - Acts 2:46 – "... day by day"

8

The Assembly Fills The Need For Fellowship

The assembly is the central place for fellowship

- United
 - Acts 4:32 – "... of one heart and soul"
- Together
 - Acts 9:28 – "in and out among them"
- Strengthened
 - Acts 11:25-26 – "taught a great many"
- Prayerful
 - Acts 12:5 – "prayer ... by the church"

9

The Assembly Fills The Need For Fellowship

The assembly is the central place for fellowship

- Joint participation
 - Colossians 2:2, 19 – "... knit together in love"
 - Romans 12:4-5 – "... members one of another"
- Coming together
 - I Corinthians 11:17-19, 33 – "when you come together as a church"

10

The Assembly Teaches Accountability

We need accountability

- When accountability is lacking
 - Judges 2:10-12 – "... did not know the Lord ..."
 - Judges 21:25 – "right in his own eyes"
- Some avoid accountability, but God provides it through His spoken word
 - Jeremiah 5:30-31 – "... what will you do when the end comes?"
 - Jeremiah 6:14-17 – "... ask for the ancient paths"

11

The Assembly Teaches Accountability

Accountability in the assembly

- Acceptable worship requires holiness
 - Psalms 96:7-9 – "Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness"
- Warning and exhortation
 - Hebrews 3:12-14 – "leading you to fall away ..."
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 – "... stir up one another to love and good works"
- Exhortation, warning, comfort, support
 - I Thessalonians 5:14-15 – "admonish ... encourage ... help ... be patient"

12

The Assembly Teaches Accountability

Accountability in the assembly

- Teaching, exposure of evil, holding fast to good
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 – “hold fast”
- Teaching and admonishing through song
 - Colossians 3:16 – “teaching and admonishing one another ...” (see also Ephesians 5:18-19)
- Listening to, and participating in, the grace of God
 - Titus 2:11-15 – “training us ...”

13

The Assembly Encourages Faithfulness

Faithfulness and faithful worship with brethren are inseparable

“All the faithful worship faithfully, but none who neglect worship remain faithful.”

- Philippians 3:3 – “[we] worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus”
- God’s design of the assembly is to stir up faithfulness
 - Hebrews 10:24-25 – “... stir up one another ...”

14

The Assembly Encourages Faithfulness

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“All the faithful worship faithfully, but none who neglect worship remain faithful.”

- The assembly promotes growth
 - Ephesians 4:11-16 – “makes the body grow ...”
- Our common focus on God calls us to faithfulness
 - Psalms 95 – “Oh come, let us worship”

15

What God Encourages You To Do

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

Believe the Gospel message

- Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

16

What God Encourages You To Do

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – “... because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

17

What God Encourages You To Do

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – “... if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end”

18