

## Daily Devotional, November 22, 2020

### “Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together”, (Hebrews 10:25, NKJV)

*“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”*

(Hebrews 10:25)

We live in difficult times, and there are many difficult decisions that need to be made regarding how each of us should apply the New Testament command in our text. In ordinary times, it is always wrong to excuse away participation in the public worship of the local Bible-believing assembly. But these are not ordinary times. Folks who are at risk or in daily contact with at risk individuals can make their own determination as to what settings they feel comfortable in. If one goes to the market and the big box store, then surely a church that is following common sense practices that we know promote public health is a much safer environment. But we always respect the decision of each individual, knowing that circumstances may vary.

Some folks and churches have chosen to go virtual, doing church online. This model is obviously not the best approximation to “**the assembling of ourselves together**”, especially in matters such as the communion table, congregational singing, and general accountability of the church congregants to one another. Some personal fellowship (with masks and social distancing, of course) is essential to the church mission (**Acts 2:42**). Therefore it is incumbent upon the local church to at least offer in-person services of some kind. Governments both worldwide and domestically have overreached with various edicts that go beyond common sense. Liquor stores are considered essential, at least in part for the stated reason that people need the alcohol to deal with the stress of the times. Following this logic, we see how much more so that church is an essential service! Friends, there will come a day when your church’s Bible content will not be allowed online because it will be called hate speech by the online censors. Things such as one way to God through Christ, opposition to pro-death policy towards the unborn, and fornication expose the darkness, and bring about unwanted conviction of hearts. The church that goes virtual and stays virtual will die a virtual death. When we can now, and more so later, “**as you see the Day approaching**”, let us come together safely for public worship. God is not dead. He is alive. And so too His church ought to be alive, worshiping and soul-winning. This begins with you and I.