

Approaching God in Worship

Hebrews 12:18-24

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
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1. So why go to church? It's a question that probably wasn't asked in many communities 30 years ago because it was commonly assumed that church attendance was important. But, in our day and time, a lot of people ask that question: Why go to church?
2. Worship is our time to be reminded of what is real to us. In our worship we come into the presence of God.
 - I. The Importance of Worship. Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
 - A. Why go to church?
 - B. It's a tragedy when our brothers and sisters drop out.
 1. "look diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God." Hebrews 12:15
 - II. Through Worship We Meet With God. Hebrews 12:18-21, "You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.' The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.'"
 - A. Imagine that you are an Israelite living in the land of Egypt.
 - B. Do you think if you witnessed this scene you might have a different view of worship?
 - III. Through Worship We Meet With Others. Hebrews 12:22-24, "But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."
 - A. Worship is more than just a time to meet with God.
 1. "You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly."
 2. "the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven."
 3. "God, the judge of all men."
 4. "the spirits of righteous men made perfect."
 5. "Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."
 - B. We should realize that worship is an assembly with God and the angels.