WHY CHURCH?

Text: Hebrews 10:25 - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

MORE VERSES ABOUT CHURCH:

Nehemiah 10:39 - "and we will not forsake the house of our God."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

Psalms 84:4 - "Blessed (or happy) are they that dwell in Thy house; they will be still praising Thee."

Psalms 92:13 - "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalms 26:8 - "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where thine honour dwelleth."

Leviticus 26:2 - "Ye shall keep my sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary; I am the Lord." (Lev. 19:30)

Luke 19:46 - "...My house is the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Psalms 63:2 - "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?"

Psalms 69:9 - "For the zeal of Thine house hath eaten me up..."

Another translation says: "My love for Your house, burns in me like fire."
Psalms 84:2 - "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

Psalms 84:10 - "For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Psalms 134:1 - "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."

Psalms 63:2 - "To see Thy power and Thy glory, so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary."

Bible Examples Of Those Who Went To Church:

1) Jesus. Luke 4:16 - "And He came to Nazereth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."


PURPOSE OF GOING TO CHURCH:

1) To Educate.

The local church needs to teach the people what it means to be born again and grow in maturity in the Lord. Christ is the head of every church, but the pastor is the leader over the congregation. It's the pastor's responsibility to teach the believers. It's the parishoners decision to apply the Word, after hearing it. (Ro. 10:17 / James 1:22)
2) To Edify.

This means to "build, to instruct, so as to improve, or uplift morally." (Webster)

As the Word is being taught and presented, it should encourage and comfort us.

I Thess. 5:11.

3) Equip.

God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. (James 1:17) The local church is the body of Christ that functions and operates to serve others and glorify God. Each person has distinct characteristics and abilities that are unique. The church should embrace those with talents and abilities so everyone can be blessed and encouraged. Everyone cannot sing, play a musical instrument or write a song. There are those who can teach, be active in drama, plan activities, cook, change diapers and clean God's house. These are just a few examples. We have natural talents and supernatural giftings. Here are a few supernatural: Prophecy, (public) tongues, interpreting tongues, healing, faith, miracles, discerning of spirits, wisdom and knowledge.

Of course, we all are called to be witnesses for Him.

God equips us. We use what He's given us to bless others and draw them to Jesus.

Without being equipped, most of all by the Person and power of the Holy Spirit, we'd be without His anointing to enable us to be effective. The talents and abilities we have are useless without His anointing!

His anointing comes by surrendering ourselves unto Him and giving Him the glory in everything we say and do. Prayer,
obedience, meditation, studying the Word and staying surrendered, helps us receive that anointing from heaven, by the Holy Spirit.

Find your calling in the local church and use what God has gifted you to help build the church. He's equipped us for a purpose, to encourage those who regularly attend, and bring back who visit. To be equipped is to also be used outside the four walls of the local church. This brings me to the next point.

4) Evangelize.

Spreading the good news of the gospel is extremely important. Most people will not attend a church by just walking or driving by, or liking the looks of the building (though appearance is very important). People need to hear about what's going on and see the love of God in you. You need to open your mouth and also put God's love into action.

John 12:32 - "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me."

Let Jesus shine through you. Others are watching (closely) your life to see if you are genuine and real. Let your life be different from the world of sin and depravity. You are a child of God! You are an overcomer! (I John 4:4 / Revelation 12:11)


5) Enjoy.

Communicating with other people of like faith is very important. When we attend church with those of similar beliefs, we feel accepted, loved, encouraged, happy and energized. We bond together in unity and God's love. It should be a joy and delight to go to church.
As we worship and praise God together, it's uplifting and enjoyable. His peace flows from the unity of love together. Joy and happiness abounds. There is a release in the spirit when believers meet in a corporate gathering.

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

God is present with us when we are alone with Him, but there is a unique anointing of His presence when we meet corporately together in one accord.


CLOSING VERSES & REMARKS:

Psalms 127:1 -"Except the Lord buil the house, they labour in vain that build it."

Matthew 16:18 - "... I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

There really is only one church. It's God's church. Multitudes of believers who know Jesus as their Saviour can help the church to grow by their faithful attendance, giving, serving, praying and encouragment. No matter what the denomination or doctrine is, God looks at our heart's. He knows if we really are born again. His desire is to use the local church to help every christian grow and mature in Him. We are to reach out to others who need to know the truth about God and His Word. Put action to your faith and watch it rise! You'll be more educated, edified and equipped to evangelize and enjoy the life God has for you, as you regularly attend the church of His choice.