

t h e c h u r c h
- *Craig Rees*

i m p o v e r i s h e d

Hebrews 10

When we change the way we see the church, we can change the world.

What are we doing here?

Hebrews 10:19-25
pg. 1211

In Hebrews, drawing near to God is an act that transcends time and place. It is not something limited to the church gathering. If the goal of coming to church is solely to draw near to God then we have failed to grasp the significance of the finished work of Jesus, a work that gives us constant access to the Father.

“I do not believe not attending a regular church service.... Takes away a person's beliefs, Christianity, or their salvation...I have faith that Jesus is more fair than that.”

- Bono, U2

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

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Hebrews 10:24-25

παροξυσμός (paroxusmos)
stimulation, provocation

To stir up, provoke. In a good sense, a sharpening;
an encouragement to some action or feeling. In a
bad sense, the stirring up of anger, sharp
contention (Acts 15:39).

Hebrews 6:10-12
pg. 1207

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Hebrews 6:10-12

You may be able to express faith and hope alone but love needs a body. Not just anybody. Christ's body! We gather together to be provoked to love.

Hebrews 10:32-35
pg. 1212

Their willingness to love was shown through their good deeds. To enter the church is a commitment to live within the new humanity, a humanity fashioned by a suffering Christ for the sake of a suffering world.

**The gift of provocation is God's gift to
the gathered church.**

Hebrews says that without provocation,
we will:

- Drift away (2:1-3)
- Grow hard (3:7-15)
- Fall short (4:1)
- Become lazy (6:12)
- Lose hope (10:23)

The greater the impoverishment of the Christian, the greater the peril for the world. God loves the world too much for His people to be too comfortable.

If we don't provoke you to love and good deeds, we fail a broken world and do a disservice to the mission of the Lord Jesus.

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