

Why Go to Church?

- You are already at church, so why should you read or discuss this chapter?
- What are the dozen reasons Dr. Whitney gives for why folks don't go to church? Can you think of others?
- Which of those *have you used* as a reason not to go to church?

Dr. Whitney offers **12 biblical reasons for going to church:**

1. Going to church is a biblical requirement for all Christians.
 2. Going to church helps prevent backsliding and apostasy.
 3. Going to church brings spiritual fellowship and encouragement.
 4. Going to church expresses obedience to the greatest commandment.
 5. Going to church follows Jesus' example.
 6. Going to church is a testimony of support for God's work in the world.
 7. Going to church enables you to hear in person the preaching of God's Word.
 8. Going to church allows you to take the Lord's Supper.
 9. Going to church enables you to experience special blessings from God.
 10. Going to church helps prevent an unbalanced life.
 11. Going to church is one indication of eternal life.
 12. *NOT* going to church is one indication of *NOT* being in God's family.
- Which of these 12 are the most compelling to you personally?
 - Dr. Whitney wrote: "If you can miss church and *not miss* church, then something is absent from your heart and faith." What does he mean by that?
 - How is going to church one way of showing God is your greatest love & priority? Others?
 - Why is the example of Jesus compelling with regard to gathering with God's people?
 - Why is hearing preaching in person better? What are the pros & cons of Memorex?
 - What is potentially communicated by those who don't go to church?
 - How might not going to church demonstrate arrogance and/or pride?
 - Why do you think this is the first chapter of the book?
 - "You don't go to church; you are the church." What's right with that? Wrong with that?
 - If the church is not a building, but an assembly or gathering (*cf.* ἑκκλησία), what do we learn about the necessity of going to church?
 - Per Hebrews 10:26-27, what are the ramifications of disobeying Hebrews 10:24-25?
 - Harmonize, if you can, the following: "Going to church is one indication of eternal life."
AND "Going to church does not make you a Christian."