

INTRODUCTION

1. Thankful to be together. How quickly things can change: anomie [disorientation]. Is there anything that is constant, that abides?
2. The kingdom-quality of the life lived by the Christian.
 - i. 1C 3:10-15 - the quality of work [v13] - he himself will be saved.
 - ii. 1C 13:13 3 are relevant for eternity: *faith, hope, love*: [1Th 1:3; 5:8]
 - a. Faith, hope & love = character & conduct in rlnshps w/ others
 - b. Lives having eternal significance are lived in the church.
 - iii. Rv 3:2a *strengthen the thgs that remain*. What thgs? *Faith, hope, love*
Where will you cultivate those 3 thgs? Local church. Hb 10:19-25

1st: The Importance of the Local Church For The Cultivation of Faith-v19-22

1. *let us draw near in full assurance of faith* = worship. Full engagement in corporate means of grace.
2. *We have confidence to enter the holy place - let us draw near* = bold expectation of acceptance in *holy place!*
 - i. Faith in Christ - atonement & resurrection: perfect priesthood
3. Nurture experiential faith: *sincere heart - clean from evil conscience*
 - i. *sprinkling & washing* => ceremonial cleansing required for priests
 - ii. regeneration - Tit 3:5. Vocabulary of temple sanctity is used in NT re: Xn life of sanctification & worship.
4. v22 - *let us draw near* - worship in full assurance of faith

2nd: The Importance of the Local Church For The Cultivation of Hope - v23

1. *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope*. Faith & hope intertwine. Faith issues into hope.
2. Hope the promises of God - *for He who promised is faithful*.
 - i. Hb 11:13-16 live by faith & die by faith - *God cannot lie* [Tit 1:2].
 - ii. *I said in my alarm 'all men are liars!'* [Ps 116:11]; Ps 12. What is truth worth to you? *God of truth* - Prv 23:23 *Buy truth & do not sell it*

3. Let us *hold fast w/o wavering*: 1C 15:58 *steadfast immovable*
4. Recipients - prior opposition now lethargic & face opposition tempted to return to Judaism: "religio licita" legal religion - "safer" [Eph 2:12]
 - i. 1Pt 3:14-16 context of competing *hopes* - necessity of *conscience* - *sanctify Christ as Lord in heart* = worship.
 - ii. Men are motivated by eschatology [hope]. Paul Johnson *Modern Times* [1983] p.578, 718 - utopia?
5. Whose words inform our hope? [1 Pt 1:13; Rv 22:20]

3rd: The Importance of the Local Church For The Cultivation of Love-v24,25

1. *let us consider... one another* - who are the *one another*?
 - i. *consider*: be attentive to & accountable for. Faith, hope & love cannot be cultivated by the isolated individual
 - ii. 1Jn 4:20-5:2 love for God is seen in love of brethren. A Christian who is not in personal community w/ church is of serious concern - 4:20
2. Purpose: *how to stimulate one another to love & good deeds*
3. lax attendance: *forsaking duty to assemble together* as a church
 - i. *Forsake*: withdraw from previous commitment. Hb 13:5b
 - ii. *assembling together* - gather in response to summons: Jesus' voice
4. *encouraging one another - all the more, as you see the day drawing near*. Smthg will happen on *the day*: 2 Thes 2:1 *gather together*. To gather on Lord's Day is a prophetic act foretelling & foretasting our victory in Christ.
 - i. Hb 3:13 *Today* = wilderness -> Sabbath Rest. 4:9-11
5. Hb 10:19-25 forsaking assembly -> warn of apostasy [v26ff].

Applic #1: Cultivate Biblical Churchmanship

1. What will you take w/ you into next age? 3 thgs abide: Faith, hope, love - cultivated by *one another* as members of local church.
2. You are to be commended & encouraged - continue!