

Notes for home study – week beginning 22nd February 2016

Commitment – blessing or burden?

Feel free to use as much or as little as you wish.

Setting the scene - **Read Heb 9:11-15**. The work of Christ – God's commitment to his people.

On Sunday (14th Feb 2016 sermon, on website with slides to accompany) Tim challenged us with the need to worship weekly. Among other things, the following points were made:

- Your church needs you
 - not (primarily) to do things
 - not (primarily) to give money
 - not (primarily) to keep the organisation going
- But to be there
 - Whether you feel like it or not
 - Whether or not you get anything out of the worship time
 - it is called a 'service' – not one you use (like a 'service user') but one you give
 - Whether or not you like the vicar / preacher / leader / music

Read Heb 10:19-25. Do you think the points above can be supported by this passage? If so, how; if not, why not?

What reason does the writer give for meeting together as an integral part of the Christian life? Should we do it out of guilt? Duty? Why can't people be lone Christians?

Remember the frailty of human nature, and how easily we make ourselves justify things we do or think. If we were lone believers, how could we ever be sure we were not being deluded?

Read Hebrews 10:26-39 Here are the writer's warnings about the frailty of human nature and the consequences. Can you recall any times where your thoughts or ideas were changed through being part of a church, or during a church service,? Or old failings pointed out? When somebody influential was there for you?

On Sunday, again Tim gave the following reasons for worshipping regularly:

- Because every time you stay away God cannot use you to extend his Kingdom
- Because YOU (and your family) are God's unique gift to others who may be here that week
 - Especially to those who might be finding their way with God, and need to meet you

What are your valid reasons for not worshipping weekly?

More than half our regular members worship fewer than half the Sundays in the year. Is that:

- OK?
- Inevitable in such a busy world?
- Something to challenge ourselves over?
 - If so, how?
- Does it actually say something about our *real* priorities – ie God / family / friends / work / efforts?

What alternatives to 10.30 on Sunday morning should we be providing?

Pray for yourselves and one another, and for wisdom and discernment for this part of God's church. Share any words of knowledge or ideas which may have been God-inspired.