

Back to Basics

6. Fellowship – Why bother with church? (Hebrews 10v19-25)

John Percival

Introduction

- One option among many?

What is the church?

- A gathering ("ecclesia")
- Universal and local

What happened at conversion?

- Reconciliation with God (Rom. 5v1)
- Reconciliation with God's people (Eph. 2v14-16)

Practical reasons for bothering with church

- For the sake of unbelievers (John 13v35)
- For the sake of other Christians (Heb. 10v24-25)
- For yourself (Heb. 10v24-25)
- For the sake of your leaders (Heb. 13v17)

Application

- Come along!

Hebrews 10v19-25 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Some books on church:

Sam Allberry, *"Why bother with church?"* (Great introduction to many issues related to church – available on the bookstall)

Mark Dever, *"What is a healthy church?"*

Mark Dever, *"Nine marks of a healthy church"* (Available on the bookstall)