

Fear, Faith and the Future

“The Necessity of Small Communities”

Week of March 28-April 3, 2021

Memorize

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Open.

What kinds of groups have you been part of in the past? Which group has been most valuable to you personally? Why?

Study.

Read Hebrews 10:23-25.

If you happened to hear Pastor Jim’s message on Sunday, what stood out to you? What questions do you have?

At the close of verse 25, what “Day” is the writer anticipating? What urgency does its nearness lend to what he is urging in this short passage?

In verse 23, what are we to “hold fast”? What kinds of things can get in the way of “holding fast” to it?

Who is “He who promised”? What connection does the writer draw between his promise and our hope?

What are some ways that the members of a small group can help each other “hold fast to our confession of our hope without wavering”?

In verse 24, what does the writer urge us to do?

The phrase “stir up” can be alternately translated “jab”, “prod”, “spur”, “provoke”, even “irritate”. Why are “love and good works” so essential to Christian lifestyle that the writer chose such a strong verb? (Check out Ephesians 2:10!)

Twice in verses 24-25 the writer uses the phrase “one another”. What do you think he’s implying about who is responsible?

“Neglecting to meet together” (verse 25) is becoming a national trend. Church attendance in America is at an all-time low. Why, in your opinion, is this so?

The word “neglecting” is also translated as *abandonment* or *desertion* in the New Testament. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews chose this word in this setting? Why is being part of a committed small group such a radical and essential choice for Christians today?

What does the writer offer as the alternative to neglect in verse 25? Why is this increasingly important for us today in a post-Christian culture?

Apply.

What have we discussed in this session that is of the greatest importance to you personally? How will you personally apply this in your life?

What additional questions do you have?