Not to Forsake the Assembling of ourselves together

Bible Class By Brother Ken

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

Hebrews 10v25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*

We note the sense of urgency in the preceding verses . Firstly the offerings through the Law could not perfect those offering but Jesus as the perfect sacrifice superseded the Law and the way of reconciliation is found in Him

Hebrews 10:19-24: *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

This means being caught up in the spirit of Jesus of whom it was written Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. And lest at any time we should let them slip

Circumstances in this country and many others have been affected by The Coronavirus and the Government ruled that for a time even religious meetings should cease and we complied as far as we felt right. The legacy is that we still do not meet formally for Bible Class Study

Should this be reviewed? On the upside, formality of written input means that each brother is able to get his say and others have time to ponder upon all that has been said. The downside is that there is

no formal meeting. But I have to say that I do not feel able to travel in the evening any more especially as it was much busier at that time of day. But there is no reason for those living close together not to meet informally if they so wish.

So that aside what is behind this instruction?

At the beginning of the creation God said it is not good that man should dwell alone and gave him a helpmeet. Then at the time of Moses birth when the midwives saved the Hebrew babies at birth Exodus 1:21 It came to pass, because the Hebrew midwives feared God, that he made them houses. The implication is that they were protected or placed in groups, communities for moral strength and purpose

From these two points we see emerging that community life is part of God's plan, although some in the past have much time away such as Joseph

When we look at Jesus, He chose twelve disciples, and had many friends

Abraham was told that his seed would be as the sand of the sea shore for number and those saved to live for ever in God's presence are depicted in the Revelation as the symbolic 144000

1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. So here is shown in a figure God's work with those with are called in working together to build the House and other figures such as the body each member supplying what they are best adapted to.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This then is the spirit of The Father in building His community, the multitudinous Christ, and the spirit that we should have. It is the spirit of love that emanates from The Father. Love on our part is shown by the desire to please and not offend; it is a binding factor-

As we are told Ecclesiastes. 4:9 -12 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The big advantage of being in a community with the same interests is in sharing thoughts and ideas but it is imperative that all are guided by The Word and ever since the Truth has been discovered in these last days there has been a falling away but not only that but false doctrine has been adopted and in some the standards lost as in the ecclesia at Corinth 1Cor5.

Also-in Hebrews. 12:15 he speaks of a cloud of witnesses- Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Thus communication is good but it is for every brother and sister to see to themselves first Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Our own salvation is very much a personal problem. How can we save others if we cannot save ourselves? We will stand alone before

the judgement seat, and give answers. We cannot imagine it but it will become a reality.

But how is it to be worked out? We have the Word as a guide and the example of the Israelis in the wilderness .Thus

Philippians 2:14-16 Do all things without murmurings and disputing: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

This spirit is as an ecclesia and individually and this must be the focus when we assemble

Individually –never giving cause for complaint before God. Many outside will complain of the strictures of our faith but they should never have cause to complain about our personal behaviour. As a community Act 28:22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

The problem that we have is in penetrating those who do care. There are some who believe in God and are basically good people but do not have the truth but they are content and rest in false doctrine or simply what they imagine is good and right. They see God as good and loving but do not realise there are conditions and that these He has revealed in The Word. Some of us try to rouse these, but they are rooted in their beliefs which are for the most part of their psyche and not knowledge,

Then as a community as well as individually we must let our light to shine. In the Revelation we have the messages to the seven ecclesias and to five of them that they were in danger of their light stand

being taken away. There are at this present time no government restrictions to hinder our witness

There is this assurance also where we meet formally Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

We see that it was a tradition to come together on the first day of the week Act 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow.Act 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers

In 1 Corinthians 12 our attention is drawn to our calling in Christ and into one body 1 Corinthians 12:18 -20 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body

And it is essential that our assemblies work for our spiritual wellbeing and progress and we know that in Paul's time that was not always so. He expresses his concern three times in 1Corinthians- 1v10, 3v3 and 11v18

But it is essential to keep the right balance and at Corinth they lost focus 1Cor 11 vs17-34. In them the importance of the memorial feast was lost in that the focus was on a social aspect. The seriousness of the memorial feast must be given 100% attention during the course of the meeting.

But coming back to our day problems can arise and circumstances change as in Africa where we understand that some are having to travel far for work with the result that they are unable to make the memorial feast. It is not for us in different circumstances to judge but it is not a healthy situation if a member is away from the table for a long time. And everyone must provide for his own self.

All who are aware of such a situation must give themselves to prayer. The feast can be kept with just two people.

A few thoughts and look forward to others

Love to all in Christ Brother Ken