

Wavering in the Assembly

- 10 *“Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you,”* says the Lord of hosts, *“nor will I accept an offering from you. ... 12 “But you are profaning it, in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is contemptible’ 13 “You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’”* And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, Mal. 1:10-13

The Danger of Repetition

- New things generate excitement.
- Attentive to everything and enthusiastic.
- As the years pass ...
- Can grow tired of worship to God
- *You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it, Says the Lord of hosts. Mal. 1:10*
- Do we ever get tired?
- Do we ever feel even a little like these priests?

● Assembling Together

- There are two important elements to our assembly. The first and by far the most important is God:
- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Jn 4:23-24*
- We are here to worship God, remember Jesus and to honor and submit to the guidance of our other comforter – The Holy Spirit!

Instructions Regarding Worship

- **Lord's Supper** 1Cor. 11:17-34
- **Singing** Eph 5:19
- **Praying** 1Tim 2:8
- **Preaching** 2Tim 4:1-4
- **Giving** Cor. 16:1-2
- No instructions on sequence, time for each, etc.
- Must be done without deviation or they cease to be in spirit and truth – No longer genuine worship.
- *In vain do they worship me teaching as doctrines the commands/traditions of men.*

Losing Our First Love

- Doing all the right things but without enthusiasm and true faith.
- This is the first step toward weariness and disdainful sniffing – Ephesus was close...
- *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent. Rev. 2:4-6*
- This is the interim period

The Interim Period

- *Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. Mk 4:18-20*
- Leave first love by becoming choked.
- No longer zealous and excited.
- Going through the motions
- Some stay in the period for years.
- Others move to the next step.

The Final Steps

- *Time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, ... turn their ears away from truth, turn aside to fables. 2Tim. 4:3*
- *although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, Rom 1:21*
- *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, Heb 6:4-6*

Oh What a Weariness

- **Lord's Supper** *A worthy manner in remembrance of me. Emotions are strong 1Cor. 11:17-34*
- **Singing** *making melody Eph. 5:19*
- **Praying** *listen intently – Amen 1Tim. 2:1*
- **Preaching** *swift to hear 2Tim. 4:1-4*
- **Giving** *cheerful, purposeful 1Cor. 16:1-2*
- These are the elements of our “*first love,*” before they are “*choked with cares, riches and desires.*”
- If we enter this “interim period” when these things become stale, we have “*left our first love*”
- *Worship* is no longer *genuine* – becoming *vain*.
- Next Step – *forsake* or turn to *fables*.

Our Assembling Together

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another Heb 10:24

Consider how to stimulate one another NAS

Consider one another to provoke ASV

A second sign that all is not well – We don't care about one another.

Consider, Stir up & Exhort

- **(1).** *katanoeo* ... *to consider attentively, fix one's eyes or mind upon:* (Thayer, NT 2657)
- **(2).** *òxūno* ... originally “to sharpen” ... but transferred like the composite *paroxúno* ... “to spur on, stimulate” ... “incitement” ...” (Kittel TDWNT # 3947)
- **(3).** “*parakaleo*... I. *to call to ones side, call for, summon*:... which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc. hence result a variety of senses...(Thayer, NT: 3870)

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- Focus is toward God, **and** our brethren.
 - *you come together not for the better but for the worse. 1Cor. 11:17*
 - *speaks unto men **edification**, and **exhortation**, and **comfort** 1Cor. 14:3*
 - *That the church might receive **edifying** 14:5*
 - *Abound to the **edifying** of the church. 14:12*
 - *Let all things be done unto **edifying**. 14:26*
- *Spirit and Truth applies to God and our brethren*
- As we focus on God and our brethren, we can keep things exciting.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- Begins the moment we walk through the door
- Happy and excited to be here.
- Interested in all others.
- Not just talking to our friends or family
- Seeking to set the tone for the worship:
 - 1. We are excited to be here.
 - 2. We are excited everyone else is here.
 - 3. We manifest this in our greeting.
 - 4. Care and concern; exhortation & stimulation.
- Even before we worship in spirit and truth.
- If we are not doing this ... only obeying half.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

● PREACHING:

● Preacher:

- Be urgent in season and out. 1Tim 4:2
- God is entreating through us. 2Cor 5:20

● Hearer

- Be swift to hear and do. Jas 1:19-25
- Receive the word with all readiness of mind, Searching the Scriptures. Acts 17:11

An Assembly that Stirs Up

● SINGING:

- **Speaking one to another**... singing Eph 5:19
- making melody in your heart to the Lord.
 - There must be emotions in the songs!
 - Enthusiasm, joy, faith, fear, etc.
 - Teaching and admonishing one another Col 3:16
 - Singing with grace in your heart.
- Song leader – songs you select and way you sing them! We speak to one another what you choose.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- PRAYING:
 - The one praying:
 - Men lifting up holy hands
 - No wrath or disputing. 1Tim 2:8
 - Don't make it a weariness – vain repetitions or too many things to remember.
 - Those who hear.
 - Listening intently to say Amen with feeling. 1Cor 14:15-16

An Assembly that Stirs Up

- The Lord's Supper
 - Come together for the better. 1 Cor 11:17-34
 - This do in remembrance of me
 - Bread – my body broken for you.
 - Fruit of the vine – blood of the new covenant shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - A time of reverence, awe, thanksgiving, grief.
- Those who lead... not a sermon... just an exhortation then a prayer to give thanks.

An Assembly that Stirs Up

● Giving

- As purposed in heart. Have it ready. 1Cor. 16:1-2
- A willing mind. 2Cor. 8:12
- Not grudging or of necessity but cheerfully. 2Cor. 9:7
- Gratitude, appreciation, thankfulness...

- *4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. Ps 100:4*
- *Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. 8 Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Ps 96:7-9*