I'LL MEET YOU IN THE HOUSE (OF THE LORD)

It is crucial that we come together as the "body of Christ" in the house of the Lord.

KEY POINTS

- Our heart beats in our chest approximately once per second and has been doing so non-stop since the day we were born.
- But for all the heart is, and for all it does for us, it is only useful, effective and alive in the context of our body. No heart stands alone, beats alone, or survives alone outside of the body.
- The same can be said for the liver, kidney, lung, eye or even chunks of skin. These are important organs, but they are only of use when they are properly functioning within the human body.
- The apostle Paul lived in a time long before anything like organ transplantation was even possible.
- In his world, you were either a part of the body or you were dead. He wrote in Romans 12:4-5:

  For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
  5 so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
- One of the key reasons we meet frequently in the house of God is this: it is the primary place where the body comes together. It is a place where all the individual members of the Church (Christ's body on Earth) come to encourage, support, and strengthen each other and feast together on the word of God.
- In contemporary North American society, many people have resorted to a brand of individual Christianity that features solitary worship in front of a computer screen, television, tablet or phone.
- The human body (and certainly the body of Christ) is not designed to function as a far-flung collection of dislocated or disembodied parts.
- Cyber Christianity is not God's plan for His church. Surfing Christian shows and snacking on four or five pastors on a Sunday morning is no substitute for the four-course meal *(Prayer, Praise, Giving, Preaching)* we receive in church with our brethren.
- Even though Jesus was God Himself, He still made it His business to be in the synagogue at the appointed time.
- We, too, must make it our priority to meet together in the house of the Lord, to thank, worship and praise God together (Psalm 100).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 4:14-22; Acts 2:42, 46-47a

- At church, we can testify to each other about the wonderful works of God in our lives (Revelation 12:10-11).
- When we gather in the house of the Lord, we hear His anointed word through His servants (1 Peter 4:11).
- A powerful sense of oneness and unity occurs when the body comes together to remember Jesus at the communion table (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:26).
- This house is where we gather to have fellowship with each other as the family of God (1 John 1:7).
- We have brothers and sisters we would love to see return home to the Faith Sanctuary body in this "Year of Homecoming".
- Each of them has a place. *You* have a place. God has His place in this body and we honour Him as our head.
- None of us can function on our own outside of the body.
- So, let us meet with the rest of the body of Christ in the house of the Lord.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Name some of the major organs of the human body and list some of their functions. What happens when these organs fail? (What are some of the symptoms of failure?)
2. From a spiritual angle, are there any noticeable signs of when a member of the body goes into "organ" failure? Discuss. What can one do to help restore that member?
3. What measures can we take to help ensure we stay in the body of Christ? Support your answer with scriptures.
4. Pray for those you hope to see back in the house of God in this year of homecoming.

Prayer Time

Lord, help me to take advantage of every chance I have to come into Your house and rejoice with others who love and reverence You.

L.G. ice-breaker: If you won a free vacation to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why that place in particular?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

 (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS