

## Hebrews 10:19-25 Meeting together



Part of v25 here is so often used apart from its context, as if it were a stand-alone command, rather than an example of how *not* to obey the actual command, immediately preceding: “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”. It is scarily possible to zoom in on the “attendance” idea and totally overlook the main thrust of what is written. But “being there” remains a necessity and an expectation – if we are to fulfil our responsibility to each other.

- How easy do you find it to slip from a grace-enlightened perspective (“done” - *it is finished!* (John 19:30) to one which is merely religion (“do”)? Can you give any examples?

What can *you* do to keep yourself from this?

Or is that down to *us* – the rest of us? (In which case, *how*?)

- **Attending meetings**

What does *Scripture* say our purposes for being here are?

Do our actual meetings hit those spots?

How does that tally with how we approach meeting together?

- or what we say afterwards?

- **Alternative (or in addition) to meetings?**

Think about the differences in society between when this was written and now. Are our basic needs any different? Do meetings *alone* meet these needs – or should they be structured to do so?

Can any needs of present-day believers be met differently – or even better – with what we have to hand nowadays?

Could collective in-person meetings of the church ever be scrapped without serious loss? What might those losses be?

- **OK, then, *let us consider ...***

So what difference will our thinking this through make?

What “encouragement” – remember the breadth of this word – can you bring to individuals or groups meeting here? And is there opportunity for you to do so?