

SUNDAY MORNING (December 23rd) • Counterfeit Gospels The Churchless Gospel

“I’m interested in Christ, but not the church” is not an uncommon thing to hear in our modern context. Some don’t understand the importance of the church’s existence. Others would say they “belong” to a local church, but they rarely participate in the life of the church.

The author of Hebrews speaks of the great honor it is to meet together with other believers. And at one point, he warns against “neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some” (Heb 10:23-25). Passages like this let us know that the problem of Christians neglecting corporate worship is not new. If the author of Hebrews saw this problem as important enough to address, it must mean that even back in New Testament times, some Christians were neglecting what God designed for their good.

Why is the “churchless gospel” attractive to many?

Is the church important? If not, why not? If so, why?

Is membership in a local church merely an option for the modern Christian?

What principles can we learn from the many “one another” passages in the New Testament?
(John 13:14, 34-35; 15:12, 17; Rom 12:10; 15:14; Gal 5:13; Eph 4:2, 32; 5:19, 21; Phil 2:3; Col 3:13, 16; 1 Thes 4:18; Heb 3:13; James 5:16; 1 Pet 3:8; 4:9; 2 John 5)

If the “churchless gospel” is a counterfeit, does it need to be countered? If so, in what ways?