

# *NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY*



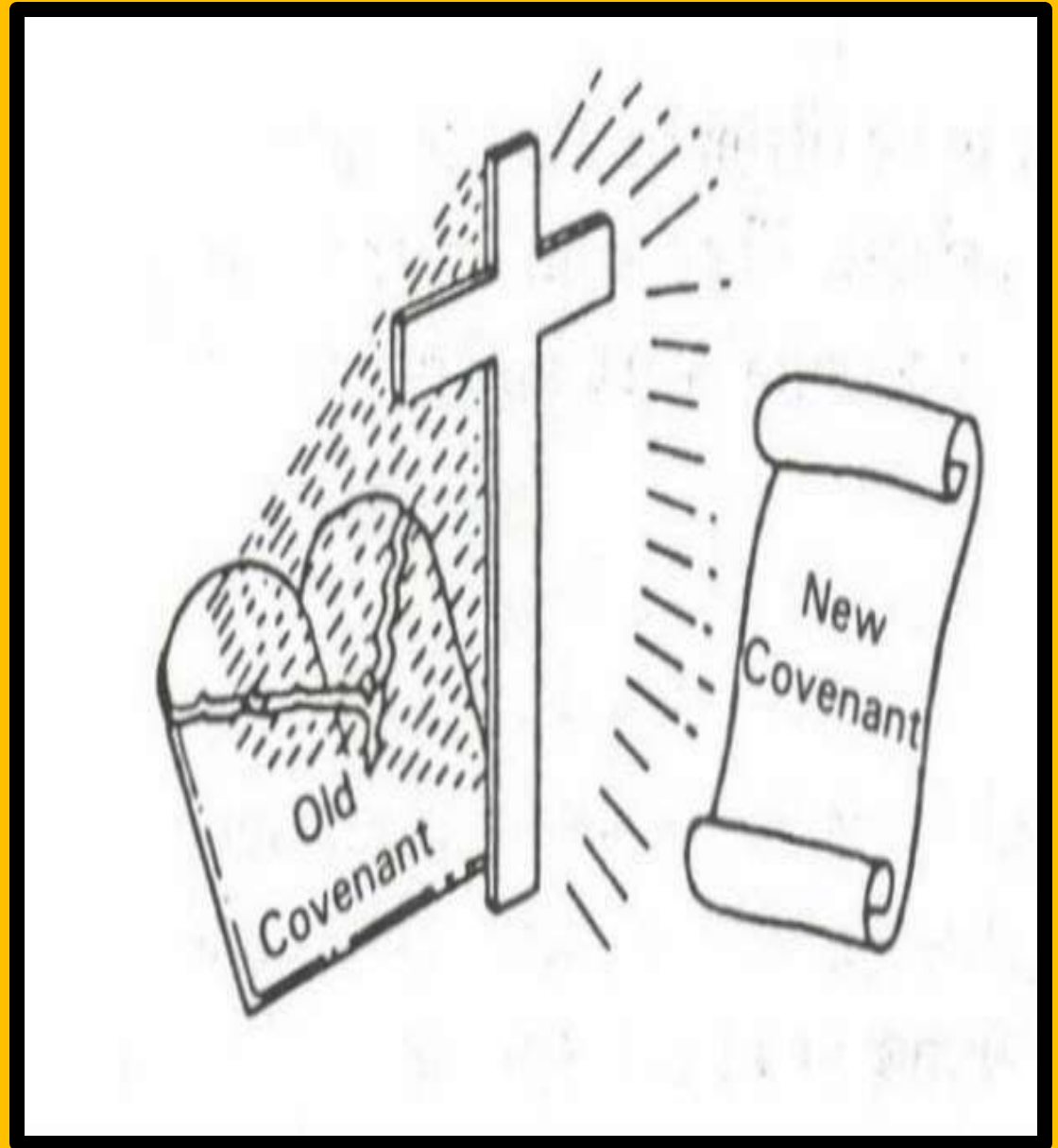
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The book of Hebrews is written to Jewish believers who are considering a return to Judaism from Christianity due to persecution for their faith. The purpose of the writing is to show the superiority of Christ over the Judaic system. The writer wants the Jewish believers to know that they have



# Hebrews 10:1-18 the shadow compared to the picture

- 1-4 the law was a shadow
- 5-10 Jesus is the perfect sacrifice
- 11-18 the contrast between Christ and the law



# Hebrews 10:19-25

- ❖ 19-21 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;
- ❖ We have free and fearless confidence to come into the presence of God because of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ. He is now our high priest and we are the house of God.





*In response to having this confidence and having a high priest, we have three commands.*

- ❖ *22 Let us draw near with a true heart*
- ❖ *23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised;)*
- ❖ *24 Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*

***HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH VERSE 24?***



## ❖ **25 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.*

**Verse 25 is a phrase which belongs to the command in verse 24. It does not stand alone, and it should not be taken out of this context.**

**Forsaking = abandoning, leaving entirely**

**“Not forsaking” = not giving up your responsibilities**

**Two ways to forsake are:**

- Stop meeting together**
- Meeting together but neglecting our responsibilities to each other**

**Assembling = gathering into one place; putting or fitting together**

***In the scripture, we have two pictures of God's church.***



***--Architectural picture = building***



***1 Corinthians 3:9b ye are God's building.***

***Ephesians 2:20-22 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto a holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.***

***1 Peter 2:4-5 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 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.***

***We have been dug up & made alive.***

***Psalm 40:2a; Ephesians 2:1***

***We have been cleaned up.***

***1 Corinthians 6:11a***

***We have been shaped up.***

***We are being built up.***

***God is building something out of the parts. He is not simply piling up stones.***

***To assemble together is more than just meeting together. The piles of stones have to be assembled in order to be worthwhile.***



***Consider the  
pieces of a puzzle  
still in the box.***

***They are  
assembled  
(gathered together  
in one place)***

***but are they  
assembled  
(put or fitted  
together)?***



# ***WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?***



***The pieces have to be taken out of the box in order to be assembled.***



*In the scripture, we have two pictures of God's church.*



*--Organic picture = body*

*1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

# *One head*

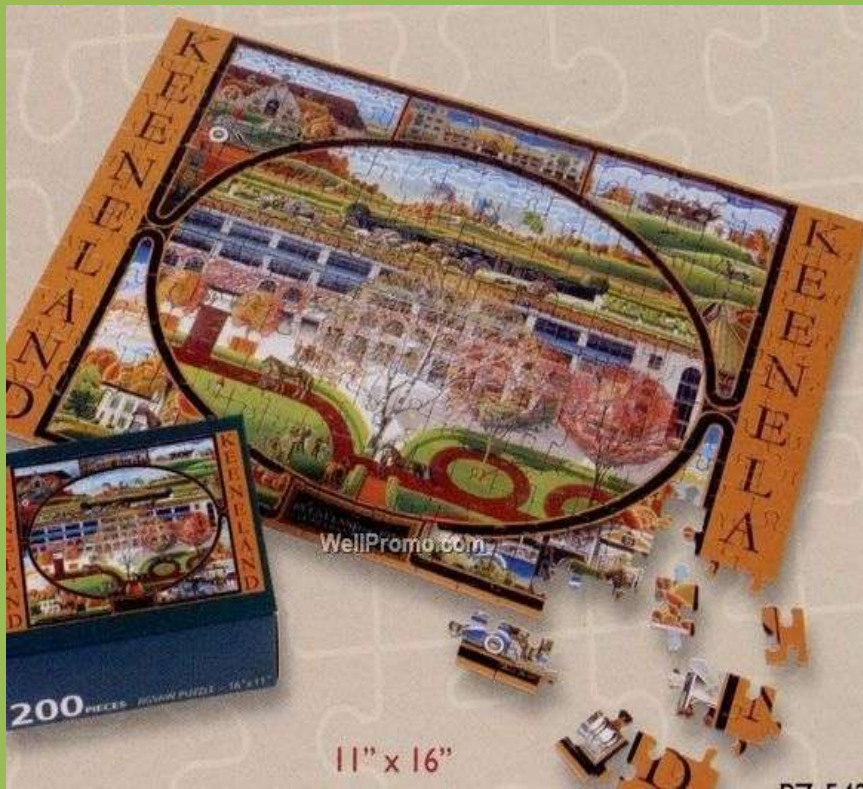
***(THE HEAD DIRECTS  
AND GIVES IDENTITY  
TO THE BODY.)***

***EPHESIANS 5:23 FOR  
THE HUSBAND IS  
THE HEAD OF THE  
WIFE, EVEN AS  
CHRIST IS THE HEAD  
OF THE CHURCH:  
AND HE IS THE  
SAVIOUR OF THE  
BODY.***



# ***One body-many members***

***(There is one puzzle but there are many pieces.)***



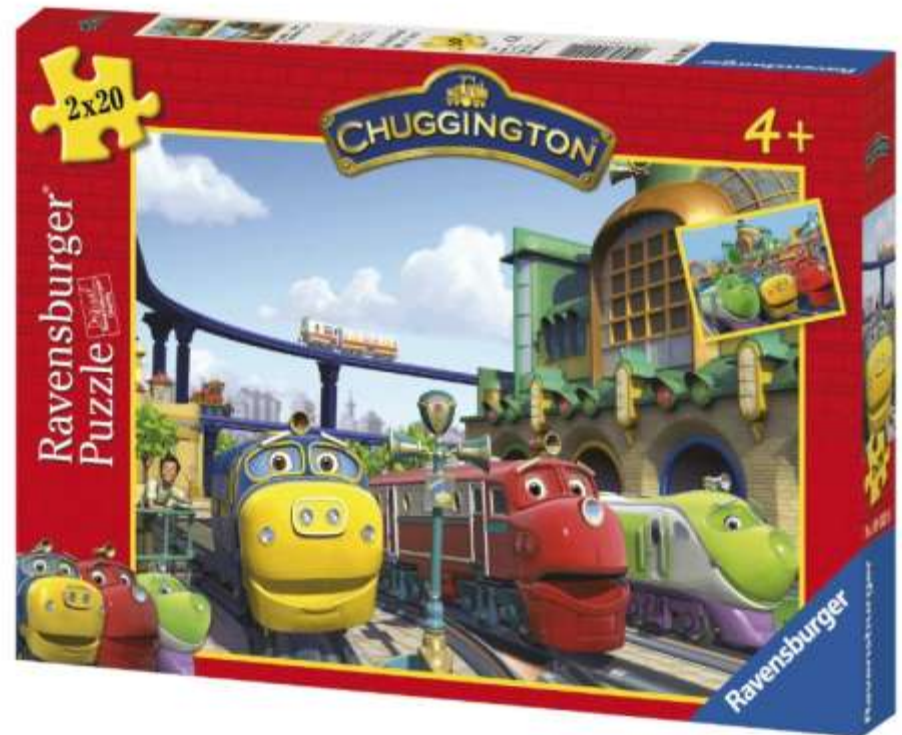
***1 Corinthians 12:12  
For as the body is  
one, and hath many  
members, and all the  
members of that one  
body, being many,  
are one body: so also  
is Christ.***



# Design-designer

*Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed thee in the mount.*

*(The designer of the puzzle.....)*



# *Placement-function*



*(...knows exactly how the pieces should fit together.)*

***1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.***

# ***Mutual need***

*(The puzzle is not complete unless  
all of the pieces are fitted together.)*

***1 Corinthians 12:21***

*And the eye cannot  
say unto the hand,*

*I have no need of thee: nor again the  
head to the feet, I have not need of you.*



(WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL  
PIECES ~~ARE~~ **PLANTED**-WATERING  
TOGETHER, THEY  
BECOME ONE.)



1 CORINTHIANS 3:7-  
8 SO THEN NEITHER  
IS HE THAT  
PLANTETH ANY  
THING, NEITHER HE  
THAT WATERETH;  
BUT GOD THAT  
GIVETH THE  
INCREASE. NOW HE  
THAT PLANTETH  
AND HE THAT

**Caring for one another**

**1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.**

**14:26 How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all be done unto edifying.**





## **Growth**

***(If the individual members are not freely operating according to their gifting, the body will not grow.)***

***Ephesians 4:15-16 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. 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.***

***“Consider one another” “Exhorting one another”***

***Consider = observe carefully, take careful note of another’s condition***

***John 13:34 -35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.***

***Exhorting =***

***Admonishing Colossians 3:16***

***Beseeking Romans 12:1***

***Consoling Philipians 2:1-4***


***Comforting 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11***

***Strengthening Luke 22:32***


***Instructing/Teaching Acts 5:42***








**Man has no role in assembling God's church. All we need to do is allow him to place us in the body where he chooses. He is the masterbuilder.**




**As for the church meeting together, unless all members of the body are considering what each other has to share and are provoking each other to love and good works, the intent of verse 25 has not been met. Such meetings are simply boxed up puzzle pieces. It is like sitting as a spectators in the seats of the theater and watching the show on stage.**

**Phrases like “we had church” and “go to church” reveal that the one speaking does not have a clue what “church” is. Our “church” traditions have kept us from seeing the requirements of God and his purposes for “church”. Traditions hinder the work of God.**

**Matthew 15:3b Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?6b Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.**



**Mark 7:8a For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men; 9 Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**



HOW WE

LIVE IS

OUR

WORSHIP



HOW WE

MEET IS

OUR

SERVICE TO



