



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Warning Against Deserting Christian Assembly	SPEAKER	Leon Oei
THEME	Warnings in the Book of Hebrews	DATE	22 & 23 May 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Continuing to unpack the different warnings from the book of Hebrews, Leon drew lessons from Hebrews 10:24-25 to remind us not to desert Christian assembly. He expounded on the three practical ways we can do so - keep up the good works, keep meeting and keep on keeping on.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORKS

Hebrews 10:24 tells us to consider how to “stir up one another to love and good works” (ESV). The New International Version translates this as “spur one another on” and the King James Version translates this as “provoke”. These translations share a common theme of encouraging believers to be proactive and take ownership of their faith.

Furthermore, in order to “stir up one another” and “spur one another on,” a community is necessary. Leon shared ways in which we can stir up one another to love and good works:

1. Regularly remind and encourage
2. Set a good example at our workplaces and homes

What love or good work have we neglected or put off?

KEEP MEETING

A common imagery used to describe believers is that of a humble sheep. Sheep gather in flocks, under the guidance and protection of the shepherd. The sheep is more susceptible to the enemy’s attacks when it is alone. For believers, there are also dangers of being the lone ranger and neglecting to meet, such as:

1. No accountability
2. No growth; gradual backsliding
3. No strength drawn from fellowship

During this period of physical distancing, there are ways for believers to continue meeting.

1. Commune deeply, whether physically or digitally. When the book of Hebrews was written, believers did not have a physical church. Being persecuted and ostracized, they even had

to meet discretely. They however did not merely congregate when they met but communed deeply with one another.

2. Be plugged into a cell group. Unlike large and faceless organisations, small and personable groups allow for deeper connections.

Will you return to Christian fellowship this week? Who will you reach out to in the Christian community this week?

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Hebrews 10:25 mentions “the Day.” Leon explained that it represents the end of the world as we see it now, and a time when we are reunited with God and one another. The hope and promises that this Day brings are expounded upon in the Old Testament (Isaiah 25:8, 35:10, 60:20, 65:19 and Jeremiah 31:12) and New Testament (1 Corinthians 15:26, Revelations 20:14, 21:4).

With this hope, God calls us to press on and keep on encouraging one another, all the more as the Day draws near. The way to do so is simple – by giving one another kind words (Proverbs 15:4). As a church and community that belong to God, let us continue to encourage one another. Then, go out and encourage the world. Who can you encourage to keep on keeping on this week?

CONCLUSION

The Day is coming when the Lord will return. Leon warned us not to disqualify ourselves, but to keep up the good works, keep meeting and keep on keeping on. He reminded us that a church is not a country club, but a war hospital for the world. As a church, we can reach out to the world especially amidst this pandemic.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three ways we can avoid deserting Christian assembly? What does it mean to keep up the good works, keep meeting and keep on keeping on?

2. A. Which of the three ways have you neglected this past month? Share on how the pandemic has deterred or discouraged you with regards to these three ways.
B. How do you stay encouraged to keep on your Christian journey?

3. Who do you want to reach out to this week whether to exhort, encourage or reconcile with?