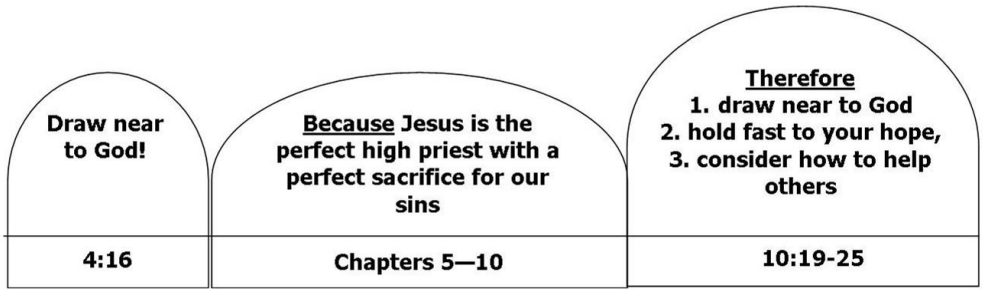
The Letter To The Hebrews
Don't Neglect Encouraging Each Other
Hebrews 10:24-25

Introduction



How should we relate to each other? (24)

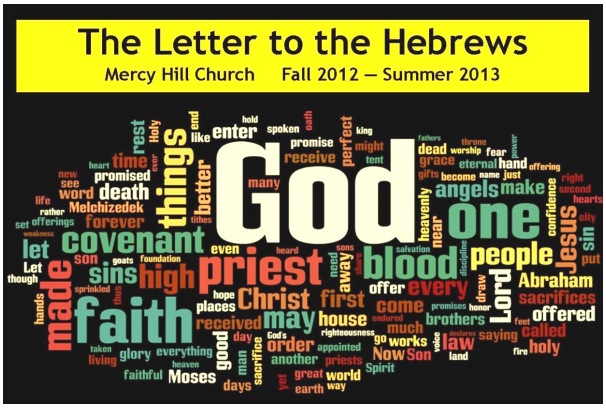
We should think about how we can stir each other up to love and good works.
Heb 6:10 shows us that "love" refers to love for God; "works" to serving others.
So church means having a group of people whom you are seeking to stir in loving God and serving others.
Church is like a garden of vegetables. God sets up the church so each of us are part of a drip irrigation system which brings water to each vegetable.
That's why we have organized our church around home groups — because home groups are the right size for doing this.

What can get in the way of this? (25)

A habit of neglecting to gather together.
One reason we neglect gathering is because we think our presence won't make any difference.
Not true. We are all part of God's drip irrigation system.
There will be times when we have to miss because of illness of travel. At those times less watering will take place.
So do all you can to gather as often as you can — so maximum watering will take place.

What should we do instead? (25)

We should encourage each other.
The purpose of church gatherings is mutual encouragement.
Church means being part of a group of people who are all involved in encouraging each other.



Why is this so crucial? (25)

Because the Day is drawing near.
Vv.26-27 shows that our brothers and sisters face the danger of falling into deliberate sin, which could mean facing God's judgment forever.
But God will use our encouragement to keep them from falling.
So don't neglect meeting together!

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Which has been your view — that church is a meeting which will function just fine without you — or that church means being part of a community that needs you to function?

Are you persuaded that church means being part of a group of people who need you? Why or why not?

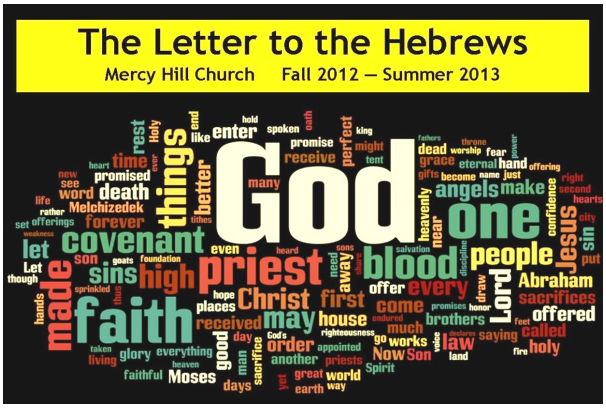
How often do you consider how to stir others to love God and serve others? What helps you do this? What holds you back from this?

Do you agree that the church is like a vegetable garden, and that God wants each vegetable watered by a drip system in which each of us is involved? Why or why not?

Do you have a habit of neglecting to meet together?

Do you agree that when you have to miss, less watering will take place? Why or why not? (Won't God find some else to do the watering? My answer: the author of Hebrews says nothing about that, and that would take away everything he has said in vv.24-25. But what do *you* think?)

Do you agree that our encouragement will keep others from going on sinning deliberately, which means they would be kept from God's judgment forever? Why or why not?

What is God saying to you through this passage?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.