

Christian Safeguards

Christians are given safeguards in the book of Hebrews to keep them from falling away from Jesus. Get your Bible out and look up each of these safeguards (the “lest” passages) on your own. They will help you to remain faithful to Jesus.

1. The safeguard of **GIVING HEED** “lest at anytime we should let them slip” (2:1).
2. The safeguard of having a **GOOD HEART** of belief “lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief” (3:12).
3. The safeguard of giving and receiving **EXHORTATION** “lest any of you be hardened through ... sin” (3:13).
4. The fourth safeguard of **FEAR** (reverence, respect) “lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it” (4:1).
5. The safeguard of **LABOR** “lest any man fall after the example of unbelief” (4:11).
6. The safeguard of **LOOKING TO JESUS** “lest you be wearied and faint in your minds” (12:3).
7. The safeguard of **SUPPORT** “lest that which is lame be turned out of the way” (12:12-13).
8. The safeguard of **LOOKING DILIGENTLY** “lest any man fail of the grace of God” (12:15). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- He who neglects the present moment throws away all the time he HAS.
- If you do not have every thing you want, just be thankful for the things you do not have that you did not want.
- Take time to be holy, because it takes time to be holy.
- Salvation is free, but it’s not cheap.
- The main goal in life is not how to make a living, but how to live for Christ.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

August 5, 2018



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Do I Have to Go to Church?

Consider the following quote from a religious journal article written almost 40 years ago, but is still relevant today:

“As we consider the decline in church membership in the United States, we must consider whether or not most Americans believe that one must be a member of the church (in their concept, just any church) to be saved. A good many Americans have reached the conclusion that they can be just as good a Christian without going to church as they can be while attending a church (J. Russell Hale, *Who Are The Unchurched?*, p. 40). Can a person be a good Christian or Jew if he or she doesn't attend church or synagogue? Seven out of 10 of the church segment, and eight persons in 10 of the unchurched, answer in the affirmative” (The Unchurched American [Princeton Religion Research Center], p. 9). *Truth Magazine* XXIV: 30, pp. 483-485, July 31, 1980.

This brief quote reminds us that many people believe that you can be a good “Christian” and go to heaven without being a member of, or attending, a church. Is this true? Let's see what the Bible says.

Do I Have To Go To Church?

The fact is, there are many people today who simply do not attend a church service. Many do not go because they are lazy, or because they are told they do not have to go. Others do not go because they

are turned off by who or what is there, or because they have more important things to do.

Just as the Israelites in the Old Testament were told that they must assemble in “the place” that God chose for worship (found 21 times in the book of Deuteronomy), so Christians in the New Testament were instructed to assemble for worship in local churches.

What Is Church?

Now would be a good time to remind ourselves of what is meant by “church” in the New Testament. The “church” is not a building. The “church” is a body of saved people (Acts 20:28). In the New Testament, “church” can be the body of all saved Christians of all time (Ephesians 1:23; 5:23, 27; etc.) or it can be a group of saved Christians in a particular locality (Acts 9:31; 1 Corinthians 1:1; etc.). We do not “go” to church, but we do “go” to the assembly of Christians and we “go” to the building where Christians assemble.

What Is Done In Church?

So, what did Christians in the first century do when they assembled together as a local “church”? Why did they come together?

First, they assembled together “with one accord” to worship God (Acts 2:41, 46).

Second, they “assembled together” for prayer to God (Acts 4:31; 12:12).

Third, they “called the multitude” of Christians together to discuss local church needs (Acts 6:1-6).

Fourth, they were “gathered together in the church” for the teaching and reading of God's word (Acts 11:26; Colossians 4:15-16).

Fifth, they gathered “the church together” to discuss local church work (Acts 14:27).

Sixth, they were “gathered together” to carry out church discipline of unruly members (1 Corinthians 5:4).

Seventh, they would “come together to eat” the Lord's supper or communion (Acts 20:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

Eighth, they would gather together “the whole church” for worship and edification (1 Corinthians 14:23, 26).

Ninth, they would take up a free-will offering or collection in “the churches” (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Do I have to “go”? Well, as a member of the body, the Lord's church, I have to go, and I get to go assemble with other Christians each week. We are told not to “forsake the assembling” of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Let's all gather together each week, and friend, why don't you come go with us? - *Chris Reeves*