



THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER

Christians in New Testament times assembled together to worship God. This is understood from such passages as *Acts 20:7* (“when the disciples came together”),

1 Corinthians 11:18, 20 (“when you come together as a church...when you come together in one place”), and *Hebrews 10:25* (“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together”). Clearly, God desires that Christians physically assemble together to worship Him on the first day of the week.

One of the things we may face as individuals is the inability to assemble together with those of like precious faith. We may be sick at home or in the hospital. Car problems or severe weather can cause one to miss an assembly of the saints. Some work schedules do not permit changes that would make it possible to assemble at a specific time.

There are circumstances that arise that can cause the regular worship assemblies of a local church to be temporarily cancelled such as bad weather (hurricanes, tornadoes, snow/ice). These are not arbitrary closings, but done because of some danger that would result from public assembly. Even in a circumstance of intense persecution, the regular assembly of the church might not be possible in order to avoid the dangers of evil men. When Saul of Tarsus made havoc of the church through persecution, brethren “were scattered” (Acts 8:3-4). Brethren could be forced to assemble in private places and/or in smaller groups.

During this present month, we have faced a rare and unusual set of circumstances. The serious danger of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) worldwide pandemic is very real and has caused the governing authorities to implement measures such as business closings and social distancing to help people avoid becoming sick. These unusual and dangerous circumstances also led many congregations to temporarily cease regular assemblies of worship in order to avoid spreading the deadly virus and protect high risk members. Some have continued to meet in outside venues or in parking lots. Many Bible studies have been produced on the internet for those confined to their homes.

A physical assembly of God’s people is where the collective worship of a local congregation is to take place (see again the scriptures cited above). Christians are to come together in one place on the first day of the week to sing, pray, study, give, and partake of the Lord’s Supper. No virtual or online “assembly” can or should replace this scriptural physical assembly. If someone believes that we can dispense with this assembly altogether and instead assemble online as a “virtual church,” they will be opposed by faithful brethren and the Bible! MWG

Coming Together

The Central Voice

Central Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	9:50 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm

“Everyone who is of the
truth hears My voice”

– Jesus (Jn. 18:37)