

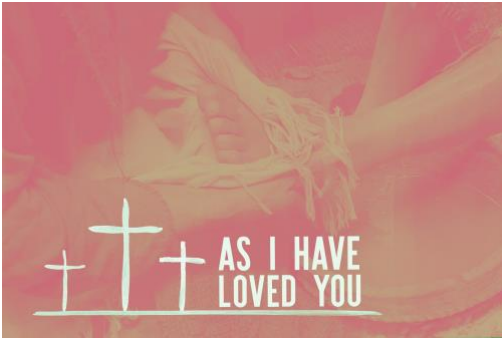
## Sermon #5: Means of Grace

May 21, 2023

Text: **Hebrews 10**

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### Sermon Open

There is a beautiful fellowship that exists eternally between the Father, Son, and Spirit. A fellowship of mutual love, honor, righteousness, holiness, and power. When we believe in Jesus and His saving work and confess Him as LORD, we are brought into this fellowship to share in all of its riches. We are reminded in **John 15**, that as we live in this fellowship we are dependent on Jesus as the vine. We receive Spiritual life from Him or apart from Him we die. In **1 Corinthians 12**, we are taught that we are also dependent on each other. Just like a physical body is made up of countless parts, with different names, appearances, and functions, yet all work together as a cohesive unit – so is the church. The health of the entire church is contingent on each of us functioning together as God has designed us.

### Reminder from Last Week

In **Hebrews 3**, we learned that every professing Christian faces the danger of unbelief creeping into their heart and causing them to shrink back – or even fall away – from the living God. God instructs us, therefore, to pay careful attention to the condition of our heart toward Him. But at the same time, he tells us to also be concerned about the hearts of our fellow church members. So we are told – exhort one another. This is a word that means to encourage, persuade, comfort, and even admonish. Our protection from unbelief settling into our hearts is the daily exhortation of other believers.

### A Means of Grace

So what we see is that we are a means of grace in the lives of our fellow church members and they are a means of grace in our lives. Whether we feel like it or not. Whether we see the value of others or not. God's says that we are all needed in one another's life to keep our hearts softened toward Christ and growing in His likeness. With this in mind, we arrive at a connected instruction to the church in **v24-25 of Hebrews 10**. Here we are told to **make it our normative habit to assemble with our fellow church members with the aim of sincere worship and mutual exhortation**. Our previous scriptures mention the need for daily exhortation. And **v25** tells us that our gathering with one another should increase the more time passes. So we can infer that this assembly should be part of our weekly schedule. In order for this time to happen, we must make the gathering of the believers an intentional priority. We should create the habit of gathering with other Christians while also keeping off of our schedule anything that would threaten our ability to assemble. According to **v19-25**, our goal is not mere attendance. We should draw near to God with a sincere heart and with consideration of others in the church and what we can do to best help them love God and desire good works. Since our gatherings should be purposeful, we should each put effort into preparing ourselves to gather with other believers; doing that which is likely to help us engage and make the most use of our time.

### Application

We are a means of grace in each others life to exhort one another toward continued belief. If we neglect meeting together, we will find ourselves spiritually deficient. **IF** we are tempted to consider the gathering of our church to be expendable depending on how we feel (*ie "I am too tired, anxious, depressed, frustrated, busy – I just do not have it in me"*), then it is like a person suffering from dehydration saying they just do not have it in them to go get a drink of water. We are not renewing our strength, in that case, but cutting ourself off from a means of God's grace to supply us with what we need.