

It Takes a Community, Part 3

Christians read their Bible in the morning and night, but what good does it do them since it can only be *applied in the community*? The Word is what we are to *live by* in community *every day* of our lives (Mt 4:4; Acts 2:42; 1 Pet 4:11; Heb 3:13).

The boast (*outspokenness*) of our hope in Heb 3:6 (which *qualifies* us as truly being His house, not a *Nicolaitan system*) is why the writer of Hebrews says, in verse 7, “Today, if you hear His voice” do not harden your hearts...”

Rather, we are to *live by this Word* and encourage one another *day by day* (i.e., be *outspoken* in your hope, Heb 3:13). It is the Word that we are to *profit* from and be *saved* by (Heb 4:2,3,6). It was the Word that Joshua of old spoke in order to produce *diligence* in a people so they would enter God’s rest (Heb 4:7,11). The Word that is spoken (1 Pet 4:11) must be *united by faith* in those who actually *hear* (Heb 4:2). It is the same Word that should cut our hearts and pierce our souls, judge our motives and expose our hidden thoughts in order to save us (Heb 4:12). It is the same Word that urges us to call out for His grace to *overcome* in order to enter the Shabbat rest (Heb 4:16). It is the same Word that will cause us to *press on* and attain to the rule with Messiah who overcame likewise (Heb 10:13; Phil 3:10-14; Rev 3:20-21).

But instead, Christians read their Bibles to try to sort out or discover their spiritual gift. They try to read the Word in order to know God’s will for *their* life. If they are sincere, then they are frustrated, because they try to apply the Word *outside the context* in which it was written and apart from the purpose for which it was written. They are totally lost, more so than those in the world who do not claim to see (Jn 9:41). They tell others about a God they do not even know. How then can they do great and mighty things such as Heb 10:13?

Christianity is *all talk* (1 Jn 3:18). 1 Jn 3:16-17 is not even possible without the *restoration of community* as documented in Acts 4:32. The New Testament tells us *how to*

live; these words are to be obeyed *in the community* and *not in the world*. The only proper context is in the community. Christian churches only meet once or at most twice a week for about one hour (not more than two hours per meeting).

The church is not a *meeting*, but a *life in the Body*. It is *body life* in a *community* (not living separate from one another, or watching TV while living alone). Community is all about *working together* (working in the kitchen together, on the farm, etc.). That is what community is all about. It is not where *loneliness prevails* (Ps 68:5-6). People in church all seem so spiritual, but living in community is His will. That is where true spirituality is revealed. It can only be done by living together *as a family* (Mk 3:35).

The Community (the Body of Messiah as was expressed by the early believers) has been *lost*. Christians today act as if it is not God's will to live as the first believers did, and they try to make up for the loss of the life of community in ways that are no better than what the *good people* of the world do. Somehow, by "going to church" they try to regain "that sense of community." However, that "sense" of community cannot be realized apart from the "reality" of *living together*.

Are Christians *all liars* since their religion bears *false witness* to the truth (Jms 1:26; 1 Jn 2:4) by committing *sins of omission* and *commission*?