

be fulfilled, and the lost won't be saved. Rom. 10:14-15 says, "And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"

10 **Because God says we should go to church regularly.** Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

The words "the Day" in the verse above refer to the day when the Lord will return for his people, and will judge the world. Are you and your family ready for this day?
-- Kerby Rials



1 **Because God is there!** The Bible says God is present in a special way when believers are together. He is not present this way when we are home alone. Psalms 14:5 says, "...God is present in the company of the righteous." Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Watching church on TV is not the same.

2 **Because it will keep us out of trouble.** The devil likes wimpy, weak Christians. We run the risk of becoming weaker when we stay at home, so gradually we won't even notice. When we become weak enough, the devil will attack us. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion

looking for someone to devour." Notice it says he is looking for someone, like a lion does. Lions look for animals who have strayed from the flock, or who are sick or weak. A lion won't attack a whole herd because he could be hurt. He likes loners. Proverbs 19:27 (NIV) says, "Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." Church can also keep us out of marriage trouble: Eccl. 4:12 says, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." God is that third strand that will hold a marriage together when nothing else will.

3 Because we can assure ourselves of our salvation and of eternal life by going to church. 1 John 2:19, referring to people who quit going to church, says: "They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

4 Because God will bless us when we honor Him on the sabbath day. "Honoring the sabbath" includes spending time with God in church. Lev. 23:3 says "The seventh day is a...day of sacred assembly..." God says, "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you

honor it ...you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." (Is. 58:12-14) We might miss a blessing if we don't go to church. This happened to doubting Thomas, who wasn't there when Jesus appeared to the apostles. (John 20)

5 Because other people need you at church! There is no one like you. We can't serve others and encourage them if we stay home alone. James 5:20 says, "Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins." Hebrews 10:24 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds."

6 Because our kids, friends and family may follow our example, good or bad. Titus 2:7 says, "In everything set them an example by doing what is good." Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." As parents, we need help in raising our kids. They need Christian friends and other Christian adults if they are to survive in this world. Being at home alone with us isn't enough. Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." 1 Tim. 4:16 says,

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

7 Because we need the help of good people. Proverbs 13:20 says, "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" We also need encouragement. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Heb. 3:13 says, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

8 Because we all have blind spots and need occasionally a loving friend or a good pastor who will warn us of dangers ahead. Proverbs 27:17 says: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." If you want to stay spiritually sharp, you need others. Colossians 3:16 tells us to "...teach and admonish one another..."

9 Because the local church won't make it without us. Pastors cannot serve full-time, a building cannot be purchased, missionaries will not be sent out, ministries to the community won't