

But someone will inevitably exclaim, “But the Lord says when two or three comes together He is in the midst of them.” They misquote and twist this scripture (Matthew 18:20) to justify themselves in forsaking the assemblies. Read the context. Jesus was demonstrating the strength of the testimony of two or more witnesses against a sinner. If those witnesses were honorable, then Jesus might as well be right there in their midst testifying against the sinner personally. Compare verses 16 and 17 and note the contrast between the “two or more” and the “church.” They are two different things, not the same thing. If the two or more constitute and replace a local church, then why “tell it to the church” *after* the sinner refuses to hear the two or three?

My friends, drive-through services and live streaming are not legitimate substitutes for assembling with the saints. It is impossible, by definition, for them to meet the requirements of physically gathering together “in one place.” The very phrase “in one place” (1 Corinthians 11:20) eliminates drive-through services, live streaming, face-time services (It’s coming!), or virtual meetings via the internet. God wants His people assembling together in one place to mutually edify each other through preaching, teaching, singing, praying, giving, and observing the Lord’s Supper. 🔗

**The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



**Come Worship  
With Us!**

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00**

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday night of each month Following Services.



**SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER**

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*“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11*

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**Live Streaming & Drive-throughs**

Michael Pickford

For many years, preachers have rightly taught that members of the church should strive to be present when the church gathers together. Elders have faithfully exhorted members that they should not purposely miss services for other activities in this world – even if those activities are wholesome.

It’s a good thing that preachers and elders have done all this preaching and exhorting, because the Bible clearly says, *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25).

When a christian is faced with the decision to “go to church,” or go to a movie with friends, he is obligated to choose the former. Jesus would say to him, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”* (Matthew 6:33).

It is sad that many Christians through the ages have made assembling with the saints a matter of convenience by missing services for trivial reasons. It is sad that children have grown up with a less than fully devoted attitude toward serving God because they have observed their parents missing church gatherings for trivial reasons.

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Missing does not necessarily constitute forsaking. There are legitimate reasons why one might miss an assembly. One may have the flu, for example. But I suggest that the list of legitimate reasons is far smaller than most think. Hopefully, most would agree that we shouldn't miss "services" to go see a movie, stay home and lounge, go play golf, go fishing, etc. Surely, the devoted Christian realizes that if Jesus shed His blood for the church... if He made such a grand sacrifice for the church, the Christian should be willing make sacrifices in order to attend the assemblies. All of them!

But in recent years Christians have been offered yet another excuse for not attending the assemblies. It's been more than two decades since I first heard of "drive-through church." Instead of assembling with the saints, one may simply go to the drive-through where he will be given a sermon tape, a bit of bread, a small disposable cup of grape juice, and an envelope to put his contribution in. Then he can "have church" in the car while driving to the beach. You'd think that any right-thinking Christian would readily see how non-sensical this is. Yet they do the same thing when they decide to stay home and "have church with the family." That may be worship, but that is not assembling with the saints. Or when they do so while out of town for vacation. That may be worship, but it is not assembling with the saints. There is no authority to observe the Lord's supper except for when the church comes "together as a church," "in one place" (1 Corinthians 11:18, 20). There is no such thing as drive-through church in the Bible.

But now we have Live Streaming services. I am not against a local church live-streaming its sermons. The problem comes when Christians begin to view such as a replacement for assembling with the saints. It is not a replacement.

As with drive-through services, there are required elements that cannot be present with Live Streaming. One cannot "consider one another" by sitting at home watching a live stream in their "Jammies" while sipping a cup of coffee. (Hebrews 10:24-25). The assemblies require mutual edification by way of singing, praying, etc. The command says,

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*"Speaking to one another in psalms hymns and spiritual songs..."*  
(Ephesians 5:19).

Did you catch that phrase, "One another?" That's mutual edification, and it cannot be done from the comfort of your living room unless the entire local church is assembling in your living room.

The Lord's supper is to be observed by the local church when they "*come together in one place,*" – when they "*come together as a church*" (1 Corinthians 11:18, 20). Did you notice the phrase "come together?" Does live streaming meet the needs of that phrase? No.

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**DUTY LIST...**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Eli Todd  
Reading: Matthew 13:31-33
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Rusty Barnes
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

**SUNDAY EVENING**

- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell  
Reading: 1 John 4:7-16
- Song Leader..... Jeff Isbell
- Lord's Supper..... Michael Pickford

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader..... Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Eli Todd

**God's Plan of Salvation**

There is only one true plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will suffice. Have you truly been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***

**Thank You For  
Serving!**

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request**