

Duty and Blessing

I. Introduction

A. God has the authority to tell us what to do, and we must have the reverence and faith to obey Him no matter what. With many commands, though, God shares details with us that demonstrate how such commands are not only duties, but also *blessings*.

II. Assembling with Saints

- A. An example of this is seen with the instruction we're given concerning assembling together. God forbids forsaking the assembly of the saints, and this should be reason enough to not forsake the assembly. **Hebrews 10:25a**
- B. In the context of this instruction, though, God explains further the *value* of assembling with the saints. He shows us that forsaking the assembly is not only a choice to disobey Him, but also inconsiderate of the needs of our brethren. On the other hand, faithfully assembling is a key source of receiving the strength and support we all need. **Hebrews 10:24, 25b; Acts 18:27; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 3:16**

III. Laying Up Treasure in Heaven

- A. Another example of this principle is seen with Jesus' command to lay up treasures in heaven. **Matthew 6:19-20** (cf. **Col. 3:2**)
- B. While such is a responsibility that must be heeded foremost because the Lord said so, God shows us in His Word how such spiritual-mindedness is for *our* benefit. **Luke 12:15-21; Philippians 2:17-18; 4:4; 4:11-12**

IV. Approaching God in Prayer

A. Prayer is likewise both a duty and a blessing. Approaching God in prayer is something we must do, but it's also a *privilege* we *get* to do. **Philippians 4:6-7; Hymns for Worship, Songs 62 & 69; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 1:9-11**

V. Feeding on His Word

A. Another command that exemplifies this principle is the need to feed our souls with the spiritual nourishment God gives through His Word. While this is something we must do, it's also a remarkable privilege that our Creator has supplied such guidance and help to us. **Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2; Romans 10:17; Psalm 1:1-3**

VI. Sharing the Truth

A. Not only is it a privilege to be able to receive guidance from the Creator for ourselves, but it's also a privilege to have opportunities to share this message with others. Though not all respond to His Word rightly, some do, and the potential to help lead someone to heaven is not something to take for granted. **Acts 8:4; Luke 15:7**

VII. Exercising Church Discipline

A. Even church discipline, which is often esteemed as one of the most difficult duties to keep, is in many ways a blessing. Though the process itself can be unpleasant, the *benefit* it yields, both for the one in sin and for the church as a whole, is something to appreciate. **Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:14**

VIII. Putting on Christ's Character

A. A final example of this principle is seen in the character traits God commands Christians to "put on." While such is a duty, the character God expects us to develop is for our good, and the more we become like Christ, the more we experience the depth of the blessings He provides, which are far richer than anything the world can offer. **Colossians 3:12; Galatians 5:19-21, 22-23**