

Church

Hebrews 12.22-24

Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

We must agree that without a saving relationship with Jesus Christ all is lost. But we must not mistakenly reason that one's relationship with Christ minimizes the importance of his Church. Yet this is precisely what multitudes of evangelicals assume and act out. Today we have a phenomenon unthinkable in any other century: churchless Christians.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

So many today need to be moved from their delusions by an understanding of the great doctrine of the Church. There is a text which describes what the Christian experiences in the Church that could change their view of the church.

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12.22-24

First, we come to the city of God –

*But you have come **to Mount Zion**, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God*

Second, as the Church we meet angels –

*You have come **to thousands upon thousands of angels** in joyful assembly*

Third, we come to fellow believers –

*You have come **to the church** of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven*

Fourth, we come to God –

*You have come **to God**, the judge of all men*

Fifth, we come to the heavenly Church Triumphant –

*You have come **to the spirits of righteous men made perfect***

Hebrews 10.9-14

Sixth, we have come to Jesus –

*You have come **to Jesus** the mediator of a new covenant*

Seventh, we come to forgiveness because of sprinkled blood –

*You have come **to the sprinkled blood** that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel*

Ephesians 1.22, 23; 2.19-22; 5.25-33; John 10.14-16, 25-30; 15.5ff

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. Hebrews 10.25

Jerry Bridges. *The Practice of Godliness*. Navpress. Colorado Springs, CO. 1983.
Richard J. Foster. *The Celebration of Discipline*. Harper & Row. San Francisco, CA. 1978.
R. Kent Hughes. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Crossway Books. Wheaton, IL. 1991.
John Ortburg. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Zondervan. Grand Rapids, MI. 2002.
Donald S. Whitney. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Navpress. Colorado Springs, CO. 1991.