

“We Are All Present”

*“So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God” (Acts 10:33).*

It’s Sunday morning and the bell has just rung to dismiss Bible classes and to let folks know it is now time for worship. You slowly make your way down the aisle, stopping along the way to speak to folks before settling in to your favorite padded pew. As you sit and anxiously await services to get started, you look around to see if your children have found their way to their seats. At first, you cannot find them and grow nervous as time approaches for services to begin. At the last moment, you look and see that they all are accounted for, present and ready for worship.

Cornelius, as Peter entered his home, stated that they (family and friends) were all present and ready to hear all that Peter was commanded by God to say. This centurion, the first Gentile convert, understood the gravity of the situation and wanted his loved ones to be with him when God’s Word was proclaimed. The result? He, along with those present, heard and obeyed the Gospel! There’s something very special about friends and family all being together in one place to hear God’s Word proclaimed.

Fast-forward with me, if you will, to the final Judgment. The trumpet has sounded and it’s time to stand before the Lord to give account. One by one the masses are brought before Him.

Most are condemned, but there are some who receive eternal life! Angels are assisting in the separation process. It's your turn! You approach the Lord's throne and He says to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." You're overwhelmed with joy! As you enter through those pearly gates you begin to look around to see if your earthly friends and family made it. "Where are they? Did they make it? Did they remain faithful?" At that moment you look up and find them all present and ready to worship!

The likelihood of all of us being together on that side of eternity will be greater if all of us are present and ready to worship on this side of eternity!

Terry R. Townsend

