

**Focusing Our Attention On Jesus**  
**Song 364 - Come, Share The Lord (see ref.)**

*Heb 12:1-3*

*1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

*“fixing our eyes on Jesus...”*

**Song 766 - Open Our Eyes, Lord**

- I want to begin this first public assembly by doing exactly what we will do from now on as we work in this area. We want to focus our attention on Jesus and serve Him faithfully in all that we do as a local church.
- We are to reflect often upon our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Specifically though, we are told to remember Him upon the first day of the week when we assemble together. The songs that we sing, the scriptures that we are reading, and the emblems that we will soon partake of, should help us to focus on Jesus together as we seek to acknowledge just how much He means to our lives.
- The writer of the Hebrew letter was telling the fellow Christians, that by looking unto Jesus, they could faithfully make their way to heaven through overcoming sin and obeying the word of God. Without Jesus we are lost, but with Him, we have the way to salvation and eternal life opened unto us. Let us take a few more moments to reflect upon what Jesus means to us.

*“the author and perfecter of faith...”*

**Song 342 - We Saw Thee Not**

- Jesus is our inspiration and our example for living a faithful life in service to our heavenly Father. Jesus is the reason we have a gospel to preach. He not only gave us something to believe in, but He also perfected our faith so that there is no room for doubt and dismay. We can trust in the old story of Jesus and His love.
- The one faith is definitely something that we are interested in restoring, preserving and increasing in as we serve and worship the Lord in our lives. Let us remember that Jesus is the reason for believing. We show how much we believe in Him at this time, when we think about His death for us upon the cross each first day of the week, until He comes again.

*“...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...”*

**Song 361 - Nailed To The Cross**

- What was it that motivated Jesus to press on in service and obedience to His Father in spite of opposition and persecution from this sinful world? Jesus had a hope of going back to heaven to spend eternity with His Father. He also had the realization that His death would provide His mankind with the opportunity to be saved from sin and go home to heaven as well.
- The Hebrew author calls it “the joy set before Him”. Jesus was willing to face the cross because He found joy in knowing that all of God’s people could be together forever. Jesus was willing to endure the cross and despise the shame of such for you and me. His joy becomes our joy and we also bear our cross daily and follow Him to heaven.

*“...and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

**Song 179 - He Is Lord!**

- When Jesus died for the sins of the world, it would have meant nothing if He did not live to make intercession for our sins. Paul made it clear when he wrote to the saints in Corinth, when he wrote, “...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.” We are told in the context of our devotion together today, that Jesus not only was resurrected, but that He became the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings when he sat down at the right hand of His Father’s throne.
- Jesus now is ruling and reigning over His kingdom, the church. He serves as the head of that body, after He purchased it with the blood of His cross. We can be thankful that we are blood bought, or redeemed from our sins. We can now live because He lives. We can now reign with Him because He reigns. He is truly our Lord and King Most High.

*Let us now take a moment to eat and drink together the emblems (symbols) that bring to our minds, thoughts concerning the body and blood of Jesus. Try to focus your attention on Jesus and seek to gain a greater appreciation for His sacrifice of love on our behalf.*

*I will now ask the men who have been assigned to serve at the table to come forward and do so at this time..*