

### **From the Pastor's Desk**

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Heb. 10:24-25).*

There is a membership roll in heaven (Rev. 20:12; 21:27). We are commanded to gather together with other believers as a reflection, although imperfect, of the heavenly church (Heb. 10:25). This is best done in the context of church membership. Here are just a few reasons why joining a local church is important.

1. When you join the church, you make promises. Our accountability to each other comes only from our promises to God and his people as members of the church. Without these promises we have no formal obligation to our friends at church (2 Cor. 10:4).
2. Church membership helps us encourage one another in our Christian walk (Heb. 10:24; Acts 2:42-47).
3. Church membership helps us to protect the purity and peace of Christ's name (Mt. 18:15-17).
4. Church membership makes it easier to share and mobilize resources for kingdom work (Acts 13:1-3; 15:2-4).
5. Church membership creates a strong and joyous unity in the public worship of God (Col. 3:12-17).

Are you ready to join with your brothers and sisters at JIBC as a member or associate member? Are you ready to stand shoulder to shoulder for the honor of Christ? Please check out the membership section of the JIBC website, contact the church office, or email [JIBCmembership@gmail.com](mailto:JIBCmembership@gmail.com).

Your servant,

Stephen