

God created man, at least in part, to be a companion for Him; to establish a relationship with Him. On the other side of the coin, God also is to be a companion for man. But in Genesis 2.18 God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' It seems that God created woman because he knew that a personal relationship just between man and God would not be enough for man. Man was weak and had trouble 'seeing' spiritual beings.

There is a parallel that we can draw between this thought and the church. Just as Adam needed Eve in addition to God, we also as members of the church need the fellowship of our spiritual family. We can draw great strength from each other and can motivate each other to greater heights of service. The worship service is an ideal time for this, for in Hebrews 10.25 we read, 'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another'. God is very unselfish here, for He allows that this time should be spent in each member encouraging the other. The verse preceding this is important, too, and often overlooked: 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' To some people, Hebrews 10.25 was given so that condemnation could be brought to bear on those who don't come to church every time the doors are opened. But the true purpose of that phrase is shown by the words that surround it: words encouragement. We are to try to think of ways to encourage people to come. Remember that the word comfort means 'with strength', and that the Greek word 'paraklesis' means the help which not only puts an arm of comfort around a man, but which sends him out with the strength he needs to face the world. Let's strive to be that help for each other.