

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President

Jamā'at Ahmadiyya,

.....

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

For a believer, even worldly gatherings should be aimed at earning Divine pleasure. And exhortation to shun impure and unholy gatherings and to adopt those that are pure and righteous.

Avoid gatherings where there is talk against the Jamā'at institutions. Join gatherings that remind you of God and the hereafter.

Avoid all gatherings and occasions that encourage sin. And pray, and the best means to pray is through The daily prayer.

On 22nd September 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfa-tul-Masīh* V ایده اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futuh Mosque, London.

Ḥūzoor ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: There are all sorts of gatherings in the world, and they have different objectives, such as for enjoyment, intellectual pursuits, committees that work out programs for leisure or enjoyment. All these are for worldly pursuits, not for seeking God's pleasure. Even gatherings that are for people's welfare are for worldly pursuits. However, there are some gatherings that are meant to draw people closer to Allāh and to find ways of spiritual progress. Their purpose is only that whatever we do and whatever we plan should be for the sake of Allāh. God loves such gatherings and their effects are manifested in the world. Allāh also blesses those who join such gatherings after they die. Whether they gather in their homes or outside, believers should strive to win Allāh's pleasure and to improve the lot of the believers.

Ḥūzoor ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: A believer's worldly gatherings are not devoid of the remembrance of God. While they are busy in their worldly engagements, their hearts are not unmindful of God. Believers do not talk about cheating or usurping other people's rights. They have the fear of God and piety in mind. While the Holy Qur'ān teaches that our gatherings should be free from rebellion, sin and disobedience of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, and should be directed towards righteousness, the pity is that most gatherings of Muslims these days are contrary to this. Internal dissent has crossed all bounds. While believers are supposed to be kind and merciful towards one another, what we witness is quite the opposite. They are making covenants with their enemies and have lost all fear of God. No power will avail them against God. Calling oneself a Muslim and yet hankering after the world shows that their faith is weak. In any case, it is our duty to transform ourselves and to make other Muslims understand that your actions will not only make you subservient to others, but you will also lose your faith. It is time to fear God and adopt righteousness, otherwise you will be left empty-handed.

Ḥūzoor ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: We should keep doing introspection. Satan will never tolerate seeing the Jamā'at progress. Those who speak against the institutions of the Jamā'at are in fact deceived by Satan. If reformation is their concern, then

they should take their complaints to their country's higher office-bearers or to Khalīfa-tul-Masīḥ. It is wrong to sit here and there talking against the Jamā'at. Such gathering should be shunned. If there is a complaint against an office-bearer, then it should be taken to Markaz or to Khalīfa-tul-Masīḥ. It is then up to him how the Khalīfa handles the matter. We should pray wholeheartedly that Allāh may rid the Jamā'at of all evil and enable us to tread the path of Taqwa. May we always be part of gatherings that are pious and righteous.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: As the Jamā'at continues to progress, Satan will also do his best to stop it. The opponents of the Jamā'at not only openly oppose us but also use simple-minded people against us. May Allāh save the Jama'at from internal and external mischief. *Amīn*.

Regarding the gatherings of believers, The promised meṣṣīāḥ عليه السلام says: The teaching that we have been given and that believers should follow is that they should either speak up or keep quiet. When you see that God and His Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم are being ridiculed, leave that gathering, otherwise refute them fully and openly. He who keeps sitting without answering will be acting hypocritically. Anyone who listens to words against God or His Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم or the Jamā'at should refute them. It is not right to show weakness in matters of faith and such accusations should be answered openly, otherwise one should leave the gathering. The following kinds of gatherings are unacceptable: Those in which the institutions are criticised. It is related in a Ḥadīth that a person asked the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم as to who they should associate with. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said, keep company with those who remind you of God, whose actions remind you of the hereafter, and prefer gatherings where there is the remembrance of God.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: Today it is essential for every Aḥmadī to increase his or her knowledge of faith. The shine and glitter of the world is not everything, God's pleasure should be our ultimate aim. A believer should shun the gatherings of the worldly. If we remain mindful of this, our young people will be saved from a lot of mischief. Parents should keep an eye on the kind of company their kids keep and should arrange for righteous gathering in their homes that should cater for their proper upbringing.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: Today the Ijtimā' of Lajna Imāillāh, UK is starting. Most of the programs should be comprised of religious and intellectual subjects. Women should remember that this is not a worldly fair. They should remember the purpose of coming to the Ijtimā' and discuss issues relating to faith and knowledge. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم says that those who sit in a gathering where they do not remember God, will look back to those gatherings with regret on the day of judgement. We should sit and associate with people who are firm in faith, in accordance with the Quranic injunction كونوا مع الصادقين (Be with the righteous). Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: One's company has a powerful and lasting impact. It is important to avoid evil companionship.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: "When an individual sits in the company of one who is pious and truthful, then that individual partakes of that truthfulness. However, if one abandons the company of the pious and associates with the sinful and wicked, then that individual is influenced by evil thoughts. The one who keeps company with the righteous and pious becomes one of them. It is therefore important to act according to the verse كونوا مع الصادقين (Be with the righteous). The Ḥadīth انهم قوم لا يشقى جليسهم says they are the people even whose

companions are not devoid of blessings. This Ḥadīth also shows the benefits of keeping company with the righteous. Unfortunate indeed is he who keeps away from them.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: Seek knowledge through prayer, otherwise you will never attain certainty. Certainty will only come when you realize that cutting off from God means a kind of death. While you pray to be saved from sin, do not let go of the means, and shun all the companionships and associations that invite towards sin, and keep praying. Ṣalāt does not mean mere standing and bowing and following a ritual, rather Ṣalāt is something that should be felt by the heart, so that the soul melts and flows towards the threshold of the Divine. Try as best as you can to feel sincere pathos and to beg Him with humility so that all the sin and audacity of the heart should disappear. Such is the Ṣalāt that is blessed. If one perseveres in this, he will find that during day or night a light has descended upon his heart and the power of the self that incites to evil has been weakened.

It is written in a Ḥadīth that at the end of gatherings, the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to pray: سبحانك اللهم و بحمدك، لا اله الا انت استغفرک و اتوب اليک (Holy are You our Lord with all Your attributes. There is none worthy of worship except You. I seek Your forgiveness and turn to you). May Allāh always save us from the onslaughts of Satan.

At the end of the sermon, Ḥūḏoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ informed the Jamā‘at of the sad demise of Mr. Bilal Abdus Salām, an African Aḥmadi residing in USA. Ḥūḏoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

Please convey these guidelines given by Ḥūḏoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ to members of your Jamā‘at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

Hameedullah

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 28 Sep. 17