

Topics

- ✓ **Tuesday:** *Things that Encourage*
- ✓ **Wednesday:** *The Peace of God*
- ✓ **Thursday:** *Settled in Complacency*
- ✓ **Friday:** *The Earnest Cry of Bartimaeus*

Encouragement

- Something we all need**
 - ✓ Times we need it more than other times
 - ✓ Always someone in a situation where they could use it
 - ✓ We need it – because we get discouraged
 - *Israel did (Num. 21:4-5)*
 - *Elijah did (1 Kings 19:1-10)*
 - *Hebrew Christians (Heb. 12:3, 5, 12)*
 - *Prompted by many different things (spiritual, physical, material)*

Encouragement

- Something we all need**
- God gives the comfort we need**
 - ✓ 2 Cor. 7:6
 - ✓ *“troubled” (NCV); “depressed” (NASB); “discouraged” (NLT)*
 - ✓ *Conclude: the comfort and encouragement I need – God gives!*
 - ✓ *Thus, I need to know HOW God does that!*
 - ✓ *May be that God is giving me the encouragement and I don’t realize it!*

Encouragement

- Something we all need**
- God gives the comfort we need**
- We are commanded to encourage**
 - ✓ 1 Thess. 5:14 – *comfort the fainthearted*
 - ✓ *“encourage” (ASV)*
 - ✓ *We need to know HOW to give encouragement*

Encouragement


- Something we all need**
- God gives the comfort we need**
- We are commanded to encourage**
- Encouragement may involve more than think**
 - ✓ *Far more than a pat on the back – “you are doing good”*
 - ✓ *May include talking about something controversial*
 - ✓ *May include talking about something negative*
 - ✓ *May include discussion that makes one uncomfortable*





Things That Encourage

1. Knowing God is with Us



1. Knowing God is with Us

A. God's presence & blessing encouraged OT servants

1. *Ezra 7:27-28*
2. *2 Chron. 32:6-8*


B. God has promised not to leave or forsake

1. *Heb. 13:5*
2. *Knowing that – causes one to be encouraged (Deut. 31:6)*



Things That Encourage


1. Knowing God is with Us
2. The Word of God



2. The Word of God

A. Word of God is powerful & active

1. *Alive & working (Heb. 4:12; Isa. 55:11)*
2. *Able to build one up (Acts 20:32)*
3. *Comforts (1 Thess. 4:18)*



2. The Word of God


A. Word of God is powerful & active

B. When word is taught it encourages

1. *Timothy's work at Thessalonica (1 Thess. 3:2)*
2. *Paul's sermon (Acts 13:15 ESV)*
3. *When responsibilities are taught*
 - a. *Titus 2:4 – NASB95*
 - b. *Acts 20:2*


C. Learning / reinforcement of revelation encourages

1. *Acts 15:31*
2. *1 Cor. 14:31*



Things That Encourage


1. Knowing God is with Us
2. The Word of God
3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith



3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith

A. Encouraged by being with faithful brethren

1. *Paul and Silas encouraged Lydia's household (Acts 16:40)*
2. *Did more than just spend time – i.e. encouraged by things said*
3. *Point: have to be with them to say things that encourage*




3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith

A. Encouraged by being with faithful brethren

B. Encouraged by seeing that our faith is mutual

1. *Encouraged by mutual faith (Rom. 1:12)*
2. *What an encouragement to be around someone who has strong faith*




3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith

A. Encouraged by being with faithful brethren

B. Encouraged by seeing that our faith is mutual


C. Encouraged when our hearts are knit together

1. *Mutual love binds our hearts together*
2. *When see and understand that – our hearts are encouraged (Col. 2:2).*



Things That Encourage


1. Knowing God is with Us
2. The Word of God
3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith
4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error



4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error

A. Encouraged in midst of controversy over circumcision (Acts 15:30-31)

1. *Issue of circumcision troubling the church (v. 5)*
2. *Had discussion / debate (vv. 7-21)*
3. *Conclusion attributed to Holy Spirit (v. 28)*
4. *Wrote a letter to clarify (vv. 22-29)*
5. *Church at Antioch read it – encouraged (vv. 30-31)*



4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error


A. Encouraged in midst of controversy over circumcision (Acts 15:30-31)

B. Encouraged by a reminder of truth already believe

1. *1 Peter 5:12 – this is true grace in which you stand*
 - a. *NCV: "I wrote to encourage you"*
 - b. *Point of book – live holy (1:15-16)*
 - c. *What you believe is true – thus continue in it*
2. *Heb. 13:22 – word of exhortation I have written*
 - a. *NCV: "I have written to encourage you"*
 - b. *Point of book twofold: Jesus is the way (1-9); Don't give up (10-13)*

Things That Encourage

1. Knowing God is with Us
2. The Word of God
3. Being with Brethren – Mutual Faith
4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error
5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well




5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well

- A. Paul encouraged when hears a good report from Timothy (Phil. 2:19)
- B. Ephesians encouraged when know how Paul is doing (Eph. 6:22 ESV)

Things That Encourage

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4. Seeing Clarity of Truth vs Error
5. Knowing other Brethren are Doing Well
6. Being Urged to be Faithful




6. Being Urged to be Faithful

- A. Barnabas was sent to help with new Christians (Acts 11:22; cf. 4:36).
- B. Talked to them about what they should do (Acts 11:23)
 1. *“Should” = teaching them what God requires*
 2. *Continue with the Lord (faithful)*
 3. *With purpose of heart (focus & determination)*
 4. *When did this – he was encouraging them*
- C. Any instruction / reminder of commands or requirement is encouragement

Things That Encourage

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6. Being Urged to be Faithful
7. Being Assured of Promise of Future




7. Being Assured of Promise of Future

- A. Situation: terrible storm – looked like all will perish (Acts 27:20)
- B. Paul told that God revealed that all would be safe (vv. 23-25, 31, 34-35).
- C. When people on ship heard that – were encouraged (v. 36)
- D. Any passage / study that points to God’s promises / future is encouraging


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7. Being Assured of Promise of Future
8. Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties




8. Being Emboldened to Face Difficulties

- A. Paul wanted brethren to know of conflicts / struggles he had endured (Col. 2:1)
- B. With that knowledge they would be encouraged (Col. 2:2)



Barclay on Colossians 2:2




“Paul prays that their hearts may be *encouraged*. The word which he uses is *parakalein*. Sometimes that word means to *comfort*, sometimes to *exhort*; but always behind it there is the idea of enabling a person to meet some difficult situation bravely and with confidence. One of the Greek historians uses it in a most interesting and thought-provoking way. There was a Greek regiment which had lost heart and was utterly dejected. The general sent a leader to talk to it to such purpose that courage was reborn and a body of dispirited men became fit again for heroic action. That is what *parakalein* means here. It is Paul’s prayer that the church may be filled with that courage which can cope with any situation.”

Barclay, William (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated, p. 150)

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9. Recommendation by Brethren




9. Recommendation by Brethren

- A. Church at Ephesus encouraged Apollos and recommended him (Acts 18:27)
 1. *After he had accepted correction and gained understanding*
 2. *ESV: “brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him”*
 3. *ASV: “the brethren encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him”*
- B. When brethren show confidence in you - encouraging

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9. Recommendation by Brethren
10. Wrong is Corrected



10. Wrong is Corrected

A. Encourage rather than rebuke (1 Tim. 5:1 ESV)

1. *Place for rebuke (2 Tim. 4:1)*
2. *Here (due to age difference) – correct wrong with encouragement*

B. When you are approached (in right spirit) about correcting wrong – that is encouragement

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