

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: October 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: October 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Encouraging One Another...continued... Can we look at this text again and try to forget all the sermons we heard in our life that told us that we are sinning for not going to church? Let's look at this glorious text with fresh eyes.

Notice the things that we need to be encouraged to do when we come together. First, since we have this great priest over the house of God in the person of Jesus, we need to be encouraged to draw near to God in full assurance of faith (10:22). We need to be encouraged in the faith. We will see this is a consistent message in the New Testament.

September Birthdays

30 Dortha Gentry

30 Kurt Hoffman

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

Indio Informer

Vol. 30 No. 39

September 29, 2019

Encouraging One Another

Excerpted from article by Brent Kercheville

Who does not like to receive an encouraging word? Who does not appreciate a kind, timely word spoken into your life when you needed it most? Who does not love to have the knowledge that someone will stand by our side and help us, even in our darkest hour? Encouragement is so valuable. The Proverbs speak to the value of these words to our souls.

“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” (Proverbs 12:25 ESV)

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” (Proverbs 16:24 ESV)

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” (Proverbs 25:11 ESV)

In the early days of the fledgling church in Jerusalem, there was a man who was such an encouragement to the body of Christ that they did not call him by the name given by his parents. They simply called him, “*son of encouragement.*” We know that name as Barnabas. The name “Barnabas” means son of encouragement. We see in this man many instances of encouragement. In Acts 4, he sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money to the apostles so that they could take care of the needy Christians in Jerusalem. In Acts 9, we see Barnabas again when Paul becomes a Christian. Paul comes to Christ and tries to join the church in Jerusalem. The church refuses Paul because he was a persecutor of Christians because they did not believe he was a disciple. Who was the person who came to the side of this persecutor of Christians? Barnabas did. Barnabas brought Paul to the apostles and told them about how Paul had been boldly preaching the name of Jesus. Then in Acts 15, after Mark had left Paul and Barnabas during their first preaching journey, who wants to have Mark come with them on the second journey? Barnabas does.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

We need this kind of encouragement. This is exactly what God has called for us to have toward one another. Our theme this year is to look at the passage that instruct us regarding how we are to behave toward one another as the body of Christ. God calls for us to encourage one another. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as we are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV) Again, we need this kind of encouragement.

Think about how many people have the gift of discouragement. How easy it is to be the discourager! When that person talks, it is always something negative to say. Hope and joy are dashed when they open their mouths. Everything is a complaint. Everything is a discouragement and frustration. This kind of “Eeyore” attitude can easily be developed in the church. But this is not what we are supposed to be toward one another. God says that we need to encourage one another and build one another up.

Not only should we consider the example of Barnabas but let us also take a moment to reflect on the example of Jesus. When do we see Jesus being a discouragement? When do we see Jesus offering a discouraging word? The Samaritan woman that Jesus encounters at the well has a sinful mess of life. Does Jesus speak encouraging words or discouraging words? We recognize that he encouraged her spirituality and faith. Consider the woman who was caught in adultery that the leaders are ready to stone. Does Jesus encourage her or discourage her? What wonderful words he says, “Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). Consider the sinful woman who enters the Pharisees’ house and is weeping over the feet of Jesus. The Pharisee wants this notoriously sinful woman out of his house. What did Jesus say? “Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (Luke 7:50). Jesus does not say, “What is the matter with you?” He does not say, “What is your problem?” He received people to him and healed them.

What I want us to think about is how we need a lot more encouragement in our lives and less of a stick. How often we can start with a verbal stick with each other rather than verbal encouragement! This does not mean that there is not a place or a need for rebuke. There is a need for rebuke. But this is not the only thing we need. It is not the only tool given to us by God. We need to start with encouragement. In fact, listen to what Paul taught Timothy in his first letter to him. “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as

brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.” (1 Timothy 5:1–2 ESV)

Do we see what Paul said? Encourage older men like we would our father. Encourage younger men as our brother. Encourage older women like we would our mother. Encourage younger women like we would our sister. We need encouragement. In fact, please consider what we respond well to. We need to be the people who come alongside a person and not whip on them but encourage them. I cannot find a passage in the New Testament that tells us to come together and rebuke one another regularly. But we do have passages that tell us to come together and encourage each other regularly. So how can we encourage each other and what should we encourage each other in? Turn to Hebrews 10:19-25.

Encouraging One Another

19 “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 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.” (Hebrews 10:19–25 ESV)

We have unfortunately read this text with one main lens: the need to not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. What is ironic about this is that this is a text that is supposed to be an encouragement, not a rebuke! Look at it in verse 24, “*But encouraging one another....*”

There is nothing more encouraging than yelling at people to go to church, right? Thank you for yelling me about attendance. I am very encouraged to come. No, this is not encouraging, and many well-meaning people use these verses this way.

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