

Sermon outline notes: 'Let us encourage one another'

Introduction

Today we are going to focus on 4 'encourage one another' passages, from two different books of the Bible.

Encouragement has a two-fold emphasis: To comfort or reassure
To challenge or reprimand

There are 4 main points to the sermon.

Let us encourage one another to...

...keep the faith (Hebrews 3:13)

...love and to serve (Hebrews 10:25)

...remember that Jesus is returning! (Thessalonians 4:18)

...live together with Him! (1 Thessalonians 5: 11)

Points for reflection in Home Groups:

We are looking for some really practical outcomes to our study of God's word today. Don't panic – you may not have time to answer all the questions!

Think for a few moments about a person who encouraged you well at some point during your life. Could you share with the group how they went about it; Was it to comfort / reassure you or to challenge / reprimand you? How did it feel at the time? Looking back, how do you feel about it now?

Consider Hebrews 3: 7-13. Let us encourage one another to keep the faith.

Psalm 95:7-11 is quoted in verses 7-11. What was the setting for these words? What are the causes of a Christian finding him/herself with an 'unbelieving heart'? Why the urgency 'today' of verse 13?

How might a hardened heart reveal itself?

How might you encourage ('challenge') somebody in this state?

How important is it for an encourager to have a good relationship with the one they seek to encourage? Why?

How might you be enabled to build better relationships within the church? Is there anything else that you want to share about these verses?

Consider Hebrews 10: 23-25. Let us encourage one another to love and to serve (v24)

What do you think might have been the cause for some Christians wobbling in their faith? Is this something that we need to guard against?

How might we encourage another person to love others more intentionally (v24)?

And what about spurring others on to greater service (good deeds)?

Should church leaders encourage members by recognising gifts in them?

Is this just the responsibility of leaders?

Verse 25 talks about encouraging one another to meet up. Why is meeting together so important?

What is 'the Day' (v25) referred to, and why is this important?

Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18. Let us encourage one another ...that Jesus is returning!

What sort of encouragement is this? Comfort or challenge? Or both?

What was the context in which Paul was writing to these folk?

When might it be right to 'comfort' in this context? What would it sound like? When might it be right to 'challenge' in this context? What would it sound like?

Consider 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11. Let us encourage one another to live together with Him!

Is this passage encouraging us to live in Christ now or in the future? Or both?

How does the future impact upon the present?

Who would benefit most from the promise of Jesus' return?

Who has the most to fear? An unbeliever or a backsliding Christian?

How might you encourage change for those discussed at (d) above?

And finally, for private reflection...

Think of somebody in leadership within your church. How might you encourage them this week? Why don't you go ahead and do it?

Think of somebody who needs building up and encouraging in their walk with the Lord. How might you be involved in encouraging them? Why don't you go ahead and do that as well?