

APRIL 10, 2022 – ONE ANOTHER SERIES

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

“That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love.” Colossians 2:2

REVIEW. The Lesson began with a reminder that the discourse in the Upper Room, as recorded in John 13 – 17, is the basis for our study of the “one anothers” in the New Testament Scriptures. It revolves around the two factors of Jesus command to love one another and his prayer for unity among his followers

LAST WEEK

BUD began with the context of I Thessalonians 5:11 – “therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” Written early in the ministry of Paul (c. AD 51) to the church at Thessalonica which was in some turmoil do to false teachers. Paul intends that the church there grow in its faith and in an understanding of who Jesus is. He began this section of his letter with a clear statement regarding the return of Christ. The time of that return is totally unknown but, rather, will come “like a thief in the night”. God desires that we be ready for that time of the return of Christ for us. We need to build one another up in preparation and for the adding of disciples to the Kingdom

RON continued the discussion regarding this verse and the concept of encouraging one another. He began with a definition of what it means to encourage. Our English word means to strengthen or stimulate the heart. The Greek word παρακαλετε, or encourager, reminds us that such is the definition of the work of the Holy Spirit. So when we encourage others we are actually doing the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. To encourage one another is thus to help in develop the character of one another. Going back to Thompson, and “The Anatomy pf the Soul”, encouragement is the act of maintaining the ministry of the church.

The use of words can become highly important and useful in encouraging one another. Words of encouragement can sometimes last a lifetime. Another element of encouragement is that of setting an example for one another. Paul, in I Corinthians 11:1 tells us to “be imitators of me just as I am of Christ.” A challenging concept at the least. And finally encouragement contains an element of edification. Using the analogy of building a house, Ron reminded us that edification recognizes that each of us is distinctly different, and it is the collection of those differences that is

BARNABAS THE ENCOURAGER MEANS SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Barnabas is a clear example of an encourager as found in the book of Acts. His name throughout Acts means Son of Encouragement. We first find him as a leader in the early Jerusalem church selling his Estate and giving the proceeds to the Apostles (4:36). Later, when the Apostle Paul was a new convert, and the other Apostles were afraid of him because of his reputation, Barnabas introduced him to the Apostles with specifics regarding his conversion (9:27). Still later, when both he and Paul were leaders in the church at Antioch, the two of them were commissioned as the first missionaries to travel throughout the region to bring the Good News to other cities and towns (11:19-24).

Sometime after their return, they decided to revisit the churches they had founded to check on the new believers. At this time, they had a falling out as Barnabas wished to take Mark with them and Paul felt he was not reliable resulting in the two separating and Paul making the journey alone (15:36-39). Barnabas, quite obviously, devoted himself to the development of Mark as Paul, in writing to Timothy, much later, request that Mark be sent to him as he was “a great help” to him (II Tim. 4:11). This same Mark was used by the Spirit of God to write the Gospel bearing his name.

HEBREWS 10:24 - 25 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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.”

The book of Hebrews was written by an unknown author in the late AD 60s. Much of the book addresses the superiority of Jesus, particularly as our High Priest in approaching the Father. Beginning with verse 19, the writer tells us that we can now enter the “holy place”, with confidence, as secured for us by Jesus. The emphasis in this passage is on stimulating one another. To do so requires relationship with an intimate knowledge of one another. Such relationship, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, allows us to “stir up one another to love and good works.

In the Upper Room, the night before his crucifixion, Jesus introduced a commandment to love one another as he had loved them. In going on to die for them, he introduced the idea that we should be willing to die for one another even as he died for us. Such forms the basis for our commitment to “encourage one another”.

As a group, we sang together the prayer asking God to open our eyes to see Jesus.

OPEN OUR EYES, LORD, WE WANT TO SEE JESUS,
TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH HIM, AND SAY THAT WE LOVE HIM.
OPEN OUR EARS LORD, AND HELP US TO LISTEN,
OPEN OR EYES, LORD, WE WANT TO SEE JESUS.

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE

- 1. AS THOUGH THE END IS NEAR**
- 2. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER**
- 3. ALLOW UNITY TO PREVAIL**

NEXT WEEK -- BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

EPHESIANS 4:32