

ENCOURAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many situations show need for encouragement. Job not very pleasant, uncertain or lost - Financial problems - Grieving over death of loved one gives you empty, lonely feeling - Children needing help - Debilitating disease of some sort - Suffer from aches, pains, and loneliness of old age - Very disappointed in someone we trusted or with ourselves - , suffering burden of guilt - Marriage not what it ought to be - Pains of divorce or parents divorcing - Children or parents sometime disappoint us - At times discouraged by way we are treated by a brother or sister - May be discouragement because of church problems - Addictions to drugs, smoking, alcohol or pornography - May be a family member or friend with addiction - May be discouraged because we are not kind of Christian we ought to be - May simply feel unappreciated by family, or brethren
- B. By looking we can find encouragement from God's Word

DISCUSSION:

I. COURAGE BECAUSE WE BELONG TO GOD Rom 8:16

- A. We are of few who believe and know truth 1Tim 4:3
- B. A spiritual family, everyone important 1Cor 12:14-22
 - 1. Humble, lowly person saved; proud will not Jas 4:6
 - 3. Who would have thought a thief saved Lk 23:43
- C. Tie binding spiritual relationship is love Rom 12:9-21
 - 1. Note the following verses 9 10, 17
 - 2. a genuine concern for each other. Vs. 13, 15-16
- D. Stay together, encourage in love. Eph 4:1-3
- E. Might think "I'm not loved & appreciated" But you are
 - 1. In spiritual family. We love each other. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, of the family of God.
 - 2. Hope never comes a time when any of us will say, "I have no need of you." 1Cor 12:21-22

II. TAKE COURAGE FROM OLD TESTAMENT Rom 15:4

- A. Situation David and his men were in. 1Sam 30:1-5
 - 1. Strengthened himself by praying & singing Psa 27:4-5; 40:1-4
 - 2. We can pray & sing Phil 4:6-7; Heb 13:6; Col 3:16; Eph 5:19
- B. We have weakness, but God's power never diminishes Isa 40:28-31
 - 1. He is never too tired or too busy to listen and help.
 - 2. When feel life crushes and can't go another step, you can call upon God and renew your strength.

- 3. Waiting on Lord is patiently relying on Him to give us strength. Our God is able. Eph 3:20-21

- C. Psalms inspire, comfort, and encourage when we need a word from the Lord. An example, Psa 23

III. TAKE COURAGE FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. God is able to "perfect" (mend or repair) us and make us strong 1Pet 5:8-11; Heb 4:15-16
- B. Jude wrote to those vulnerable to heresies and to temptations toward immoral living. Jude 24
 - 1. Jude encouraged believers to remain firm in their faith and trust in God's promises for their future.
 - 2. All the more important because they were living in a time of increased apostasy.
 - 3. We are living in last days, much closer to the end than were the original readers of this letter.
 - 4. Although much iniquity is around us, we need not be afraid or give up in despair God is able to keep us from falling, and to bring us into His presence and give us exceeding joy. 2Thess 2:16-17

V. TAKE COURAGE - A BETTER WORLD IS BEYOND Gal 6:9,10

- A. "Grow weary" = "to give in to fatigue." Jhn 4:6
- B. "Well doing" = "doing works God ordained Eph 2:10; 2Thess 3:13
- C. "For in due season we shall reap."
 - 1. Discouraging to continue to do right and receive no word of thanks or see no tangible results.
 - 2. Keep eyes focused on eternal reward 1Pet 1:13
 - 3. Paul suffered many hardships. 2Cor 11:23-28 Yet, he called them "light affliction." 2Cor 4:17
 - a. Did this by keeping his mind focused Phil 1:23
 - b. In heaven, God will wipe away all tears Rev 21:4

CONCLUSION:

- A. Disappointments, discouragements, and hardships will come.
- B. We must be steadfast and unmovable ourselves 1Cor 15:58
- C. The Eternal God is perfectly able to comfort 2Cor 1:4
- D. Someday we shall reap if we don't give up: "faint" Gal 6:9
- E. Let us continue to strengthen ourselves in the Lord Rev 3:1-3

(outling by David J. Riggs revised by jlh)