

Encouraging One Another, Pt. 1
Selected Scriptures, 2017-12-31A, #1

Introduction: One of our goals for 2018 is to practice the one another injunctions or commands in the New Testament. Throughout the year in Sunday school and in Bible study we will examine one or more of the one another commands. This morning and tonight, the Lord willing, we will focus on encouraging one another.

I. The Meanings of Encouraging One Another:

A. Some of the meanings of encourage:

1. To put courage into someone (Joshua 1:9).
2. To put confidence into someone (Joshua 1:9)..
3. To strengthen someone (Deuteronomy 3:28).
4. To stir up or stimulate someone to do something (Hebrews 10:24).
5. To exhort or urge or persuade someone to do or continue to do something (Acts 14:22; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 3:13).
6. To comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
7. To come along side to help or to aid (Matthew 26:53).

B. Parakaleō (παρακαλέω) is the Greek verb that is translated “encourage” by the New American Standard Bible and most of my modern translations of the New Testament.

1. Parakaleō is a compound Greek word composed of a preposition and a verb:
 - a. The preposition is para (παρά) which means “beside, alongside, near.”
 - b. The verb is kalēō (καλέω) which means “to call.”
2. The literal meaning of parakaleō is “to call to one’s side to aid or help” (Matthew 26:53).

C. The noun form of parakaleō is *paraklētos* (παράκλητος).

1. *Paraklētos* is used as a verbal adjective and is one of the names for the Holy Spirit and is translated “Comforter, Helper, Encourager, Counselor, Paraclete (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).
2. *Paraklētos* is also used to refer to Jesus and is translated “Advocate,” meaning “Legal Counselor, Lawyer, Mediator (1 John 2:1).

II. The Motives for Encouraging One Another:

A. We are commanded to encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18; Hebrews 3:13)...

1. “Comfort” in 1 Thessalonians 4:18 translates the verb parakaleō, which is translated “encourage” by most modern translations; and the verb is in the present tense which means continuous action, the active voice which means the subject is performing the action; and the imperative mood which means it is a command to be obeyed.
2. “Exhort” in Hebrews 3:13 also translates parakaleō which is also present, active, imperative...
3. One of the reasons we assemble for corporate worship is to encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25)...

B. We all need encouragement from time to time because we are all fighting the same battle. We all have three common enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil (1 John 2:15-17; James 1:27; 4:4; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8).

C. Encouraging one another is something that we can all do.

III. The Methods for Encouraging One Another:

A. Tonight, the Lord willing, we will examine some methods of encouraging one another.

B. One of the ways we can encourage one another is with words (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

- 1. “Comfort” translates parakaleō which is also translated “encourage” by most modern translations.**
- 2. “These words” are words regarding the “rapture” or return of Christ...**
- 3. The right word spoken at the right time can be very encouraging:**
 - a. According to Proverbs 15:23, New Living Translation “... It is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time.”**
 - b. According to Proverbs 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”**
- 4. The three friends of Job were rebuked by both Job and God because of the discouraging words that they used (Job 13:1-5; 16:1-5; 19:1-3; 42:7)...**
 - a. According to Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”**
 - b. Words can be used both to build up and to tear down – constructively and destructively.**
 - c. James tells us to be slow to speak (James 1:19)...**
 - d. Paul tells us that our speech should always be seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6)...**
 - e. Paul also tells us to let no corrupt word proceed out of our mouth (Ephesians 4:29)...**
 - f. Jesus tells us that we are going to one day give an account for every idle or careless word spoke (Matthew 12:36)...**
 - g. The book of Proverbs has a great deal to say about words, the tongue, the mouth...**

C. Some encouraging biblical words: Job 19:25-27; Psalm 23:1-6; 27:1; 30:5; 34:19; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 26:3; 40:31; 43:1-2; Ecclesiastes 11:1; Romans 8:28, 31, 38-39; 12:19; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18...

D. Assignment: As you read through the Bible, mark encouraging versus to be committed to memory...

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