**Exhorting One Another**

*Hebrews 10:24-25; 3:12-15*

**Introduction**

1. **Acts 20:7** – Disciples gathered to take the LS and listen to the word of God presented by the apostle Paul.
   1. This was not a one-time occasion, but a weekly event.
   2. Until the Lord comes again we proclaim His death (**cf. 1 Corinthians 11:26**).
   3. We continue in the Apostle’s doctrine as did the 1st century Christians (**cf. Acts 2:42**).
   4. It is sinful to forsake such an assembly 🡪
2. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – We often turn to this passage to condemn the sinfulness of forsaking the assembly. This is just, but a closer consideration is beneficial. 🡪
3. **(v. 24)** – The assembly (while a place of edification, and worship to God) is also designed by God for the mutual benefit of members in **exhortation (encouragement; comfort; console; strengthen)**.
   1. The life a Christian chooses is described by Jesus as ***“narrow…and difficult” (Matthew 7:14)***.
      1. Temptation – **Ephesians 6:12; Galatians 5:17** (We wrestle with temptation.)
      2. Persecution – **2 Timothy 3:12** (Exactly what the Hebrew writer’s audience was going through.)
   2. There is a great day approaching **(v. 25b)**.
      1. **Destruction of Jerusalem A.D. 70** – would be a terrible manifestation of God’s judgment on the Jewish people.
         1. Would require great strength and faith to carry on in such a discouraging time.
         2. Encouragement was needed in preparation for that day, and until that day so as to prevent apostasy.
      2. **The day of the Lord (second coming of Christ)** – We do not know that day or hour, and sometimes grow restless or discouraged. Encouragement is needed.
4. **Hebrews 3:12-15** – Exhortation is not just a responsibility a Christian has to fulfill in the assembly, but daily!
   1. **Exhortation is not solely accomplished in worship**. **Great encouragement and consolation comes from the edification received in worship, but our communication is not to end there.**
   2. **Exhortation – to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc. (Strong)**
      1. To exhort one another we must reach out, and call upon.
      2. It requires awareness, and effort. (***Not showing up last minute to services and leaving right after. Or only showing up on Sunday morning. Or only associating with brethren at the assembly.***)
5. As Christians, we are to be Exhorting One Another. We must consider *the proper ways to exhort, the traits of an exhorter, and we must be willing to receive exhortation*.
6. Proper Exhortation
7. Like most things, exhortation can be done in a wrong way, or for a wrong reason. We must not be guilty of either.
8. Paul’s Proper Exhortation **(cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**).
   1. **In truth, not error** **(v. 3-4)**.
      1. An encouragement coming from error can do no good.
      2. **The benefit of encouragement comes from the source of power to move us – the gospel.** *(Most try to encourage with stories.)*
   2. **In purity, not uncleanness** **(v. 3, 10)**.
      1. We must not encourage as those who are unrighteous.
      2. We must not encourage unrighteousness.
   3. **In honesty, not deceit** **(v. 3, 5)**.
      1. Encouragement is not a trick of influence.
      2. It is an act of integrity and love.
   4. **As a father, not in covetousness** **(v. 11, 5-6)**.
      1. Encouragement should not be a trapped laid for selfish gain – taking advantage of someone’s hardship.
      2. Like a father encourages his kid for his benefit, so we encourage each other.
   5. **Pleasing God, not men** **(v. 4)**.
      1. We know of optimistic and loving people who are always seeking to help others. This attitude is noticed.
      2. We should want to be noticed by God, not men. (What is your motive?)
9. Traits of an Exhorter – Barnabas (**cf. Acts 4:36; 11:19-24**).
10. Considerate **(v. 22)**
    1. The entire concept of encouraging another comes from being considerate of their well-being. This is a sign of brotherly love.
    2. **Hebrews 10:24** – Assembly should be and is a sign of being considerate of others.
11. Observant **(v. 23)**
    1. To exhort another, one must be aware of their situation to know what to do/say, and when to do/say.
    2. **Romans 12:6, 8** – Exhortation is something we can all do, we must simply be aware of our brethren in order to exhort them.
12. Avoids Hypocrisy **(v. 24)**
    1. Encouragement is not very encouraging coming from one who is a hypocrite.
    2. **Matthew 7:3-5** – In order to help another we must straighten out our own lives.
13. Full of God’s Word **(v. 24)**
    1. Wise council comes from one directed by the Holy Spirit.
    2. **Galatians 2:20** – The greatest exhorter – Christ – can live in us and help us to exhort as well. (**cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4**).
14. Faithful **(v. 24)**
    1. Only one who trusts in God and acts accordingly can be effective in encouraging others to do the same.
    2. **Luke 17:5** – Apostles after being told to forgive a brother continually upon repentance. (*How were they to be ambassadors of Christ without great faith?*)
15. Receiving Exhortation

* **An implication that comes with our responsibility to exhort one another is the responsibility to receive that exhortation from one another.**
* **Hebrews 13:22** – The entire epistle to the Hebrews was one of exhortation.
  + He continually admonished them for wrong doing, and encouraged them to continue faithfully.
  + **We must fight the urge act out against exhortation, and instead allow ourselves to benefit from it.**

**Conclusion**

1. We must continually consider one another through selfless exhortation.
2. Our love for the brethren should abound. It should lead to action.
3. We must be willing to go out of our way for each other, and have serious concern one for another.