

July 17, 2022

Attitudes, Part 8

by Warren Berkley

Encouraging One Another!

(1 Thess. 5:18)

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Context: Paul was addressing the uninformed idea circulating that Christians who had died would not experience the glory of Christ’s second coming. He based his response on the historical truth of the resurrection of Christ with the associated promise of our resurrection, declaring: “the dead in Christ will rise first.” “Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” What were the Thessalonian Christians to do with this? “Therefore comfort one another with these words!”

The immediate application is, when we have good news, assurance and hope, we need to share that with each other. Comfort from God is to be shared within the spiritual family (see also 2 Cor. 1:4). One way to avoid conflict, distance or coldness is the positive interaction God desires among His people. Love, comfort, gratitude, service and encouraging one another.

To this add 1 Thess. 5:11, for a wider imperative: “Therefore, encourage one another and build one another, just as you are doing.” The negative is, don’t tear one another apart (Gal. 5:15). The

positive is, “encourage one another and build one another up.”

In speech, how we treat people and all our interaction with fellow Christians, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear,” (Eph. 4:29).

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb. 3:13). When we share goodwill, speak encouraging words, pray for one another, worship and study with one another – those are positive actions that keep us from the hardening and deceitful movement away from God into sin.

In previous articles I’ve written AGAINST harsh words, anger that leads to sin, grumbling and complaining. This article and the others to follow turn the whole theme to the POSITIVE, active goodness that is the godly attitude we should have and consistently exhibit toward each other, to the glory of God and for our peace and edification, as we pursue the pathway to heaven and do our best to take others with us.

To apply these passages with full and joyful energy, make a list of what you can do better. Phone calls, cards, speaking to people in a better way, visiting folks who need help, praying with other

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series each Thursday evening through the summer on “Love One Another”

Gospel Meeting - Grissom Road in San Antonio, August 7-12

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Christians, assembling consistently for worship and Bible study, using your talents and resources to come to the aid of those in need, expressing gratitude, surprising kids with gifts, having folks to your home for a meal and good conversation, joining with others to approach some wayward saint, attend area gospel meeting with other brethren and don't forget to give the preacher a gift card for Krispy Kreme donuts on his birthday.

Hebrews 6:10: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility. His recent shots have not helped.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is in the hospital and starting a 5th round of treatment..

Debbie McMurray is recovering from her radiation treatment.

Jayne Wilson is having some heart issues.

Ana Urquhart has covid.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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