

Radiant Church, March 22, 2020
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Acts 20:1-12

This section is about tangible, proactive, intentional encouragement
Parakaleo - counselor

Hebrews 3:12-13 *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 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. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowering encouragement

What are we to encourage in each other?

Awareness of the spiritual war waged for our hearts' allegiance

Greater passion for Jesus, the King

Acts 20:1-2 *After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.*

Acts 20:3-6 *There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychiucus and Trophimus. These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.*

This is the time period when Paul composed 2 Corinthians and Romans
He is also carrying the Gentile offering (encouragement) to the Jewish Christians

How can we encourage others?

Give (time and treasure)

Be present

Serve with each other (shared experiences that grow relationships)

Why don't believers encourage each other more?

Too busy

Too self-absorbed to truly love others

Acts 20:7-9 *On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep*

sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

First reference to Christians meeting on Sundays (?)

Acts 20:10-12 *But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.*

Eutychus means "fortunate, lucky"

Tony Merida: "Sermons preach to the ear, but the Lord's Supper preaches to the eye"

Privilege (in participation)

Pattern (weekly)

Power (in its reception)

Unification (as a united body of believers)

Sermons

Listen humbly

Listen intently

Listen Biblically

Listen personally

Listen communally

Listen missionally

Listen practically

Listen gratefully

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.*