

Encouraging One Another

1. Introduction:
2. We Must Meet Together
3. The Great Encourager:
4. Barnabas' First Example:
5. Barnabas' Second Example:
6. Barnabas' Third Example:

7. Living For Christ In A Decadent World.

- A. The decadence in this world is not new. The social life in Antioch was debased, sensual and shocking.
- B. The Church in Antioch: Acts 11:19-22; 23-26; 15:23-29
- C. The Church in Rome:
- D. Ephesus was also a pagan city, permeated with a Gentile lifestyle.
 1. After the church was founded in Ephesus, Paul stayed for two years and taught regularly in the School of Tyrannus. Acts 19:8-11
 2. The first three chapters of Paul's letter to the Ephesians were similar to the first 11 chapters of Romans, predominantly theological.
 3. It is in these chapters that Paul outlined many of the great theological truths of Christianity.
 4. When he began Chapter 4, he wrote, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."
 5. Once again, with different words, believers are Encouraged to "remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."
 6. What is found in the second part of the Ephesian letter is in many aspects parallel with Romans 12:1-2.
 7. A comparison between Romans and Ephesians:
 - a. God's Mercies Rom 1-11 cf A Christian's calling in Jesus Christ.
Eph 1-3
 - b. Rom 12:1 Cf Eph 4:1
 - c. Rom 12:2 Cf Eph 4:17-22 Cf Eph 5:3-4 Cf Eph 4:22-24 Cf
Eph 5:15-17
 8. One great need for New Testament Christians, especially those who converted out of pagan lifestyles, was to develop a Christian lifestyle that reflected God's holiness, particularly in the area of moral purity.
 9. It is sad, but true, that many used this to establish legalisms that they presented as necessary for salvation from the penalty for sin.
- E. The 21st-Century Christian and the decadent world.
 1. There is a striking parallel between the first century and our own, with this exception: when Christianity was born, the entire world was basically immoral.

2. The pagan world had no widespread copies of the Bible to offer righteous standards, while many today have rejected the authority of the Word.
 3. On the other hand, the American culture was brought into being by people who were at least outwardly committed to the values of Christianity, and they wrote these values into society's laws.
 4. In recent years our standards of sexual morality have rapidly declined and more and more our society is moving toward open and flagrant immorality.
 5. We live in a society that actually promotes immorality of almost every kind, and seeks it to be practiced openly under the guise of freedom.
- F. The Visual Media: Be careful with what you let into your soul.
- G. Music: Consider Php 4:8-9
- H. Observation vs. Participation: Can Philippians 4:8 be fulfilled is the test?
- I. Our example as parents.
- J. Peer Pressure:
- K. For Personal Evaluation:
1. Are we _____ on "excellent" and "praiseworthy" things as revealed in God's Word?? Php 4:8
 2. To what extent do we "_____ our minds?" Rom 12:1
 3. To what extent do we _____ the world and the _____ in the world? 1 John 2:15
 4. To what extent are we seeking to "_____ true to the Lord?" Acts 11:23
- L. Let us not confuse the Encouragement to "change one's mind" with the Positive Mental Attitude thinking of today.
1. We are to change our mind to conform to God's will, not _____ our own "world."
 2. PMA thinking makes oneself the god of his own world, trying to create one's own _____. This is called Pluralism.
 3. The Christian "change of mind" is God-centered while PMA thinking is _____-centered.
- M. Part of your ministry of Encouragement is urging people to view people and circumstances from _____ perspective.