

Sermon Outline

BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER (4) – ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

A. Introduction

1. The letter to the Thessalonian Christians, likely the first of Paul's letters, if not the second, was written to encourage the newly formed church which was formed in amidst much persecution and afflictions Cf Acts 17.1-10a), to give them the assurance of the eternal state of their brethren who had passed on in the Lord and to instruct them on the implications of the soon return of Christ.
2. Ch 5 provides a summary of the practical implications living in anticipation of the return of Christ. On the one hand, the unbelievers are living in darkness, asleep spiritually and without hope. On the other hand, believers are living in the light, awake and watchful for Christ's return. Therefore we are live for Christ and not be perplex by the times and seasons of His return. Instead, we are to encourage or comfort one another and build up one another.

B. Encouraging one another is not just:

1. Giving a Pep Talk
2. Giving your expert advice
3. Drowning one another with gallons of Bible verses or quotes

C. Encouraging one another is:

1. A kind word fitly spoken Prov 12.25, 25.11
2. Quick to hear, slow to speak Ja 1.19
3. To come alongside to comfort, help, encourage 1 Thess 5.11

D. Encouraging one another – The Practice

1. By the Word of God
 - i. God's Promises

 - ii. God's Solutions

2. By our example 1 Thess 1.2-10
 - i. Work of Faith

 - ii. Labour of Love

 - iii. Steadfastness of Hope

 - iv. By gathering together in worship Heb 10.24-25

 - v. When all else fail....

E. The Spirit of Christ -- Our Comforter, Helper and Encourager