Encourage And Build Up One Another

Joshua Creel · 1 Thessalonians 4:1–18 · Series: **Devoted To One Another**

INTRODUCTION

- Now here is this man who is proclaiming a king who is not Caesar. And so the Jews used this against Paul and against the saints there in Thessalonica.
- When you read 1 Thessalonians, you see that the conflict that the Thessalonian Christians were undergoing is heavy on the mind of Paul.
- Paul very much having on his mind the conflict that these saints continue to undergo, encourages them in the fifth chapter in verse 11 to encourage one another and build up one another.

1 Paul Encouraged Even in His Own Struggles

Joshua 1

- Paul had always had on his heart and his mind to encourage these saints.
- We were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children.
- And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, do not be afraid any longer. But go on speaking and do not be silent. For I am with you.
- Here's the point. Paul is not in the best frame of mind.
- We kind of hunker down, internalize everything, get very inward focused. We get consumed with our own problems.
- We have a role, an opportunity, and a responsibility to try to encourage and to build up one another, even though we ourselves might be in need of a little bit of encouragement.

2 Encouragement Is Exhorting to Excel Still More

1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

- When you talk about encouraging someone that you are in fact exhorting and trying to build up their courage to prompt them forward in action.
- We request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that as you receive from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God, just as you actually do walk, that you excel still more.
- But what's the purpose of encouragement? That we excel in the things that God wants us to be.
- When this trial ends, when the hard time ends, then we're really going to get serious about our faith.
- No, encouragement is exhorting each other. Exhorting each other to follow God closer. To turn this trial and this tribulation into a reminder that I need to be more serious about my relationship with God.
- We become more serious about purity in a sin-sick society. We become more serious about being devoted to one another in a very cynical world.

3 Encouragement Is Giving Comfort: It's Going to Be Okay

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

- But the other idea behind encouragement is giving comfort.
- That's not how Paul encourages these brethren. He does not tell them, you guys, just hang on. Government's going to change.
- For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- It may not be okay tomorrow. It may not be okay next week or next month or next year. But ultimately it's going to be okay because God is going to set things right.
- We who magnify the love of God and rejoice in the love of God, we are also those who ought to rejoice and magnify the justice of God.
- Not false hope. Hope in the Lord. And assurance that He will return.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God? Would you repent of your wrongs, be baptized, to have your sins forgiven, to be found in Christ tonight?**

MY NOTES