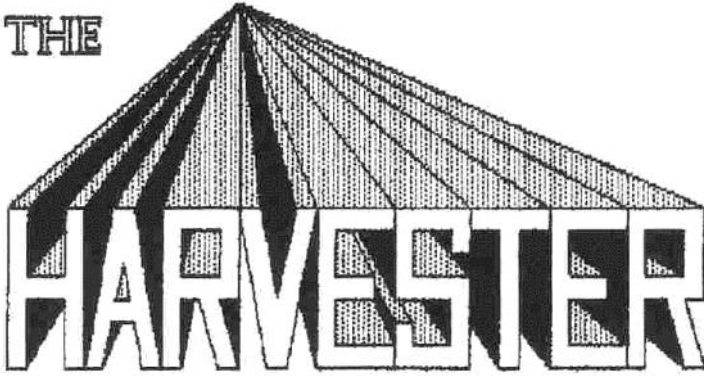


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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HOW TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS

One of the best ways to learn to encourage young members is to follow the example of the apostle Paul. He was forever teaching, exhorting and encouraging others. Paul did what he could to educate the members. He made it his business to let them know that he was there for them. He would pray for their well-being if he couldn't be in their presence. He would write letters of encouragement to individuals and to the congregations. Paul was a leader in the encouraging department. One reason that Paul was

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able to accomplish all that he did was because he had an extraordinary love for God and for mankind. Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." If we hope to encourage anyone, it can only be done out of genuine love. Let's consider Paul's encouraging words to Titus:

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober [controlled], grave [serious], temperate [exhibiting self-control], sound in faith in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. (Tit. 2:1-8)

Sound doctrine comes first and foremost. Paul encourages Titus to teach sound doctrine so listeners would know the truth. Paul then tells Titus the duties of different age groups of men

and women. Notice that the older groups are examples and teachers. Older women are qualified to teach younger women because they have experience. When they teach the young women to love their husbands and love their children, they give special advice as sweet Christian ladies; no one else can fill that bill.

Hebrews 3:13 tells us to exhort one another daily. All Christians must be examples and be encouraging to one another. Older Christians should especially encourage young Christians as we just read in Titus. Teaching on our part must be demonstrated by the lives that we live, our Christian example, or it will fail miserably. We must practice what we preach! Paul encourages Titus in the final verse of Titus 2, *"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."* (Tit. 2:15) It is obvious that a very important part of our encouraging young members is doing all we can to teach them how to be devout Christians. This doesn't have to only be in the church building. It could be in a home, in a game, or on a fun trip. Paul wrote epistles to keep in touch, however, now we can use social media to stay connected (e.g. email, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). We should try to keep in close contact with the new converts so that we can monitor and encourage them. This way, you can know how they are coping with their Christian walk. You can both cheer them on when they are making strides and offer encouragement when they fail. It is said that a word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success. Remind them of what God can do. He can transform any situation for his glory (Rom. 8:28). He can

transform any person into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29).

An excellent chapter for new converts to study is Romans 6. Help new converts to develop a pattern of study. Guide them in their study of sound doctrine. The more educated they become in God's Word, the more they understand how important their life has become. They have a life of purpose and meaning that they never imagined before; they have a whole new beginning. We can and should stand ready to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible says we are to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2), encourage them, and strengthen them.

Most suicides are committed when people are alone. Christians need to know of a surety that God is with them. Notice how David encouraged himself. *"And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God."* (1 Sam. 30:6)

Christians, especially young Christians, should be reminded of all the things that God has done. When you read the Bible you quickly see that God is faithful to His people. His people have a history of falling down, wandering off, and giving up. God has a history of bringing them back, cleaning them up, and giving them a fresh start. Throughout the Psalms we are reminded of what God had done in the past for His people. We are reminded of God's compassion, forgiveness and mercy. In Psalms 143:5 David writes, *"I remember*

the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."

The Psalmist reminds himself of what God has done for him personally in Psalms 30:1-2, *"I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me."* In Psalms 34:4 David said, *"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."* Again and again David talks about what God has done for him. There are times when we all need to remind ourselves of what God has done for us. How He forgave us when we were sure we didn't deserve forgiveness. How He came through for us when we needed financial help, when we were sick, when we needed comforting, and etc. When we encourage ourselves this way we remember that we are not alone. No matter how it feels at this moment, we are not stumbling through this world all by ourselves, God is with us. To forget what He has done for us or to ignore all that He has done, would be to betray the marvelous grace that He has given us. We can't give up, because God is with us. That is how we intentionally encourage ourselves in the Lord and this is something we need to teach the new converts.

In summary, we should make every effort to encourage new converts by following the guidelines of the Apostle Paul and King David. Be the best example possible. Exemplify a genuine love and concern for fellow Christians. Give them regular positive feedback. Study the Bible with one another. Be careful to teach sound doctrine and make sure new converts know how valuable they are in God's kingdom. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that*

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

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APOLOGIA

QUESTION: Why do Christians attend church on the first day of the week?

ANSWER: There is no passage in the Bible which directly tells us to "attend church on the first day of the week." But we learn God's will other than by a direct command. Hebrews 8:5 informs us of *"the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."* This has reference to Exodus 25:40 and Numbers 8:4 and is further sustained by Stephen in Acts 7:44.

Approved examples have the same weight as commands. Such approved examples of the early Christians assembling on the first day of the week are clearly evidenced in Acts 20:7, and 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break

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bread, ... (Act 20:7)

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, ... (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Admonition to not forsake such assembling is recorded in Hebrews 10:25. The express purpose for the assembly on the first day of the week, joint participation of the Lord's Supper, is stated in Luke 22:19, "This do in remembrance of Me." This is repeated twice by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:24 and 25.

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Cor. 11:24-25)

Verse 26 explains that by so assembling and partaking in this communion Christians "do shew [proclaim] the Lord's death till He come." Absence of this observance by some had the result of Paul saying, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (30). The importance of this assembly and the related communion is emphasized in 1 Corinthians 11:33, "Wherefore my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another."

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Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
September 4 - 7	Goochtown Eubank, KY	Hunter Bulger (Fort Deposit, AL)
September 5 - 7	Liberty Liberty, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
September 7 - 12	Mount Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Joe Hill & J.D. McDonald
September 19 - 21	Pleasant Ridge Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
September 26 - 28	Van Lear Van Lear, KY	Hunter Bulger (Fort Deposit, AL)
September 29 - October 3	Home of J.R. and Myrtle Thornton Summit, MS	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. In Judges, what did the silversmith do with Micah's silver?
 2. Whose mother took him a little coat once a year?
 3. How long did Jonah say it would be before Nineveh was to be overthrown?
 4. What happens to the man who "puts his hand to the plough and looks back?"
 5. The desolation of which city is described in Revelation chapter 18?
- ...and remember July's questions?
1. Which two sisters married Jacob? RACHEL AND LEAH (Genesis 29:21-28)
 2. How old was Moses when he died? 120 (Deuteronomy 34:7)
 3. What did Boaz say Naomi was selling? A PARCEL OF LAND (Ruth 4:3)
 4. Who carried the cross for Christ? SIMON OF CYRENE (Matthew 27:32)
 5. What was Paul's home town? TARSUS (Acts 21:39)