

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
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1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
November 8, 2020

Encourage one another. It can't wait.

- *The End of the World*
 - ◆ Not long ago - the stuff of fiction. If serious: viewed as *a religious nut*
 - ◆ Fears of climate change - many openly speak of the end of the world
 - Yet tell people the Universe will suddenly pass away - labeled: *religious nut*
 - ◆ Face it. The notion of climate change is scary enough.
 - Everything we know and have - vanish. That's even scarier!
 - **Therefore, encourage one another with these words.** 1 Th. 4:18
 - **Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up...** 1 Th. 5:11
 - What's so encouraging about the *End of the World*?
 - Everything! When you know what's going to happen and are prepared.

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- Encourage? Part of the problem - thinking encourage = speak only the positive, get people to *believe in themselves*.
- ❖ **Encourage, speaking truth against deception.**
 - Paul exposes false encouragement: **people are saying, "Peace and security,"**
 - ◆ Deception: *Don't worry. Nothing's going to happen in our lifetime.*
 - ◆ *It hasn't happened in 2,000 years. Nothing indicates that all will end.*
 - ◆ Definition of **encourage**: *to give support, confidence, or hope*
 - ◆ False hope, false confidence isn't encouragement. It's deadly deception.
 - Encouragement must speak the truth so people aren't left unprepared.
 - ◆ **Fact:** The Day of the Lord is coming. Jesus will return on the Last Day
 - ◆ There will be **no hints or signs**. It will be **sudden - instantaneous**.
 - ◆ You can't stop it or ask for a little more time to prepare.
 - ◆ **Destruction (total ruin) will suddenly come on** the deniers and unprepared.
 - ◆ The truth is a message that cares and prepares - that provides true support.
 - Avoiding the scary news of the End of the World is **not** helpful or loving.
 - Be encouraged to speak the truth, to encourage others to prepare.
- ❖ **Encourage: the ultimate life begins with the Day of the Lord.**
 - Most stunning news. This is not the day to dread! God's people live for this day.
 - ◆ Sin, its deeds, deceptions, afflictions, destruction, additions - **GONE!**
 - ◆ The curse of sin - pain, disease, aging, disability, deterioration, death - **GONE!**
 - ◆ Satan, the cruel prince of this world, his demonic and human allies - **GONE!**
 - ◆ Our sinful nature - the Old Self - **GONE!** We're cured of it forever!
 - ◆ Sin's reign is over. Our loving God is in charge and we are with him.
 - **He died for us, so that ...we may live together with him.**
 - Live with him in a New perfect Creation forever! Wonder of wonders.
 - ◆ Encouragement for the Last Day goes far beyond avoiding destruction.

- **How do we know** you're included?
 - ◆ Do you know that Jesus died in your place so you could be with God forever?
 - ◆ Do you know that Jesus is returning - out with the Old and in with the New?
 - ◆ Do you regret your deeds of darkness and long to grow as a child of light?
 - ◆ Do you know that God gave you a new birth in Baptism, making you one of his own - a child of the light?
 - ◆ **There's your proof.** God worked this knowledge and affirmation in you.
 - ◆ *You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. God has encouraged you!*

❖ **Live to encourage one another**

- Encourage your comrades. We are engaged in a war.
 - ◆ A war against the Deceiver and all who offer *false peace*.
 - ◆ Encourage one another to be alert and sober - not asleep or out of it.
 - ◆ Equip one another with *faith, love, and hope*. Train how to use them.
 - *Faith* - trust in God and his word. Stand on solid ground. Resist temptation.
 - *Love* - faith in action, following the word, living in the light.
 - A taste of the perfection that awaits with the Day of the Lord.
 - *Hope* - confidence and longing for all God promises now and then.
 - As our helmet: on our mind, providing focus and longing for the ultimate
 - It protects from cheap glittery false promises that beckon from the darkness.
 - *Hope doesn't need* to know the *when Jesus comes*. It knows **he is coming**.
 - ◆ Those who want to know *when*, want to be in charge = **hope in self**

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- Joint worship is encouragement in action, equipping to encourage
 - ◆ All who participate in hymns, liturgy, Psalms, prayers, Creed, and Communion
 - ◆ Encourage others. And tune and equip their lips with words of encouragement
 - ◆ Are encouraged by those they worship with - also authors and composers
 - ◆ What a privilege to *encourage one another and build each other up...*
- Our calling to encourage one another is vital for others and ourselves.
 - ◆ No one else will help you be prepared. Going solo neglects others and self.
 - ◆ How foolish to take a day off from hope! Forget the ultimate we live for.
 - ◆ Take what you learn from joint worship and Bible reading, speak it out loud to yourself - in the shower, in devotions, in prayer.
 - ◆ Then let it flow into your conversations with fellow believers to encourage.
 - ◆ Share it with those who don't know Jesus.
 - People need real hope. We have it to offer free of charge.

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