

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Encourage - parakletos

Twice in 1 Thessalonians we read these words: *“Therefore **encourage** one another with these words”* [4.18; 5.11]. The word ‘**encourage**’ in the original Greek is **parakletos**. It means ‘*one who comes alongside*’... ‘*one who walks alongside*’ close up, personal, almost human.

John [14.14,26; 15.26; 16.7] uses **parakletos** to refer to the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised to send to the church. At Pentecost [Acts 2] the Holy Spirit came alongside the disciples, and continues to encourage its mission for over 2000 years in a host of interesting ways.

The Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians, applies **parakletos** to believers with the words *“Therefore **encourage**...one another with these words”*.

Encourage [parakletos] – As the Holy Spirit encourages believers, so believers have been set aside by God to encourage one another, and build one another up.

Therefore

“Therefore encourage...come alongside...walk along side one another...”

- In scripture one learns that ‘**therefore**’ statements point to an action of God that expects a believer’s response. The teaching is this: God does before He expects. Always! And, because God does, therefore He expects.

1 Thessalonians 5.9-11 one of many passages in scripture telling us what God has done for us and how we are expected to respond.

“[Because] God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that we may live together with Him. [Therefore] encourage one another and build one another one another, just as you are doing.”

1. *God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- God is gracious. *This is good and pleasing to God our Savior who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* [1 Timothy 2.3-4].
2. *He died for us so that we may live together with Him.*
- His grace is costly grace. The creator of the universe lived the perfect life we are incapable of living, and took our sinfulness to an innocent death on the cross.
 - His costly grace gives us repentance and faith, forgives sin, restores to life with Him.
3. *Therefore encourage one another, and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

Therefore – Encourage

Because/therefore statements point us to Old Testament promises fulfilled in the perfect life, the innocent death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. They tell us that God, in Christ Jesus, is predisposed in kindness. He came to ‘*seek and to save the lost*’ [Luke 19.10]. And, because God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, therefore we have the responsibility to encourage one another with these words.

Walking along side one another...coming along side one another...encouraging one another is the natural response of God’s people to the many Bible passages that tell us what God, through Christ has done for us, and seeks to do through us.

- “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him,” ...*Therefore encourage one another.*
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” ...*Therefore encourage one another.*
- “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” ...*Therefore encourage one another.*
- “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ...*Therefore encourage one another.*
- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.” ...*Therefore encourage one another.*
- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”...*Therefore encourage.*
- These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name...*Therefore...*

‘What God has done for us passages’ encourage believers to be encouragers in a world that increasingly exhibits its fallen-ness, especially among those who live unaware that *God has not appointed them to suffer wrath, but desires them to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for them so that they, too, could live together with Him.*

May we be people on spiritual alert, always on the ready to encourage others with this word and promise of God: that He *has not appointed [them] to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for [them] so that [they] might live together with Him.*

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