

The Unrelenting Encourager – Hebrews 10:19-25

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

The writer of Hebrews points out clearly what the church is to be doing. In this text we are confronted with the importance of being encouragers and also being intentional about stirring up other believers to show love. This is a very practical text with many specific everyday applications. All of our response is fueled by the gospel and the confidence we have in the finished work of Jesus.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. The writer of Hebrews is painting a picture of what God’s church should look like in the world. He calls us to draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith. This faith is grounded in the hope of the final work of Jesus and His rescue. What does it really look like for a believer to draw near to God? Hope is more than a wish but a confident expectation. When have you found yourself not holding fast to this hope? When and why do you find yourself wavering? What is the answer to holding and maintaining an unwavering hope?
2. We are to consider, intentionally think and ponder, ways to stir up one another to love and works. This is the picture of the church as designed by God. Do you typically gather with other believers with this on your mind? What is your default mindset? What are some specific ways we can stir others up to love and good works? Why is this even important?
3. The writer of Hebrews points out that some are in the habit of not gathering with other believers. Habits form and then it gets to a point where we don’t even think about what we’re doing or not doing. Why is it so important to gather with other believers? Why is this so difficult in our society? It’s been said we show up for what we value. Has there ever been a time you didn’t value gathering with other believers. Why so? (I.e. issue of sin, lazy, self-absorbed, disagreement, discouragement, unclear expectations, change in personality, program, place, or people, confused on purpose of the church, etc.)
4. We are to encourage one another all the more as the Day draws near. Do you ever think about the return of Christ and the end of time? Does that impact how you use your time and resources now? We are to “fuel” courage for one another. This is different than flattery. It’s all about motive. We flatter to get something we want. We encourage to fuel growth in Christ. How do you do with encouraging others? How well do you receive encouragement? Have you ever found yourself flattering someone but you realize your motive is self-serving? Describe a time someone encouraged you and how that helped you. How do you think the world deals with discouragement? How should the gospel impact this?

5. Who do you know that needs to be encouraged right now? Pray for them and consider specific ways you can “fuel” courage in their walk with Christ.