

“Encouragement”
Hebrews 10:23-25
Tuesday Bible Lunch
November 8, 2016

Introduction: Last week Jon gave some reasons to go to church. Today, I want to pick up where he left off and talk about what happens when Christian people drift away from the church. Here is what I know. When a person drifts away from the family of God (the church), it is only a matter of time until they drift away from fellowship with God. Our relationship with God does not change, but our fellowship with God can change.

Now the writer of Hebrews knew the Jewish Christians would struggle leaving behind their Jewish religious practices and ceremonial washing and offerings to be cleansed from their sins. Direct access to God was a new thing for them. Knowing they would feel pressure from family and friends, the writer of Hebrews gave instructions to help and encourage them.

Text: Hebrews 10:23-25

- In verse 23, the writer told them to “hold fast” (that is to remain faithful).
- In verse 24, the writer told them to help one another (“consider one another”).
- In verse 25a, the writer instructed them to not stop meeting together.
- In verse 25b, the writer told them why to meet together—to exhort one another.
- Some newer translations use the word “encourage” rather than the word “exhort” which conveys the idea.

Hebrews 10:25 is not a suggestion. It is a command. It is our Christian duty to encourage one another. Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts (Romans 12:8). Some people are endowed with the gift of encouragement, but all Christians are commanded to encourage people.

In all of our lives, there have been people who have come alongside of us to encourage us. This month is a good time to thank them. If you are like me, you are behind doing this.

Application: Each day beginning today until Thanksgiving (16 days) think of one person who has in some way encouraged you and thank them.

Conclusion: The Bible says in Hebrews 3:13 that we are to encourage one another daily. Every one of us can do that. God commands it.