

SERMON HANDOUT for February 5, 2023



An Authentic Life!

An Authentic Encouragement

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

William Arthur Ward,

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.

Criticize me, and I may not like you.

Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.

Encourage me, and I will not forget you.

A Compliment - great motivator, particularly when thought put into Why, When, and How.

Most of the time, a Compliment should be given in public.

- If not possible in public, then convey your praise through a personal note that person can share with their families.
- As with all rewards, praise should be given immediately to provide the greatest reinforcement.
- Best time? Whenever God prompts you do it.

ENCOURAGEMENT!

God would have us to be “encouragers.”

† Hebrews 10:24 NKJV - “*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works...*”

† Hebrews 10:24 NLT - “*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.*”

† 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20, Paul practiced the character trait of encouragement.

WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT IS:

1) ENCOURAGEMENT IS _____ NOT CRITICAL - 1 Thess. 2:13-14a NKJV

Encouragement when it is complimentary...

a) **Announces Affection** - *we also thank God without ceasing!*

b) **Acknowledges Accomplishments** - *because when you received the word of God — you welcomed it — as it is in truth!*

Welcomed - *means more than just hearing the Word and appreciating it. It means they respected, revered, embraced, and inculcated it.*

c) **Affirms Actions** - *For you, — became imitators!*

2) ENCOURAGEMENT IS _____ NOT CONDEMNING - 1 Thess. 2:14b-16 NKJV

The Word of God within us is a great source of power in times of testing and suffering.

*If we **appreciate** the Word (the Heart),
appropriate the Word (the Mind), and
apply the Word (the Will),
then as a whole person we will be **controlled by** God's Word
and He will give us **VICTORY!***

Encouragement when it is cautionary...

- a) **Empathic** - *suffered the same things...*
- b) **Enlightening** - *who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us...*
- c) **Explicit** - *so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.*

One of the great values of the local church:

We stand together in times of difficulty and encourage one another!

3) ENCOURAGEMENT IS _____ NOT CALLOUS - 1 Thess. 2:17-20 NKJV

Encouragement when it is compassionate...

- a) **Relational** - *endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. Therefore, we wanted to come to you—but Satan hindered us.*
- b) **Personal** - *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you...*
- c) **Eternal** - *...in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.*
