

Persevering to the End

(Part 3 – Encouraging & Watching Out for One Another!)

Text: Hebrews 3:12-19

Main Idea: All true saints will persevere to the end with faith in Christ by the exhortation & encouragement of the community of believers who challenge them daily to fight against sin!

1. **There is an Intense _____ around us:** Sin wages a constant battle to deceive and harden hearts of professing Christians tempting them to _____ from the living God!
 - Sin has an incredible power to _____!
 - Sin has an incredible power to _____!
 - We must _____ if we are to win the battle over sin! (Heb 11:24-26)
2. **The _____ of God's Grace:** A community of believers who are _____ exhorting one another to persevere in faith & love for Christ & His Word! (Heb 10:24-25)
 - **Lesson # 1:** We are called to _____ encouragement to others - to be intimately involved in someone else's life! (Jam 5:19, 1 Cor 12:14-26)
 - **Lesson # 2:** We are called to _____ encouragement from others - to allow others to challenge us & at times confront us (& NOT get offended when they do!)
3. **The Practical _____:** Being a _____ community!
 - Don't spurn the community because you feel _____ in your spiritual life.
 - Remember that _____ need your involvement in their lives.
 - Together let's create an atmosphere at Ebenezer that is truthful, firm & yet _____ & welcoming to those who have been wounded in the war!
 - Personally be involved in some sort of _____ where you can benefit from others & vice versa!
 - While not meddling, do take initiative in your encouragement to others by discussing _____ spiritual issues.
 - Be accountable & _____ to the encouragement of others!

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 - Be accountable & _____ to the encouragement of others!

Application Questions:

1. In what ways have you been tempted to fall away from the living God? How has sin “deceived” you in the past to believe something contrary to what the Bible teaches? In the heat of the battle against sin, what **strategies** are you planning on implementing so that while you might lose a skirmish here and there you will not ultimately lose the battle? (prayer, faithful Bible reading, worship attendance, etc.)
2. Think about **examples** in the Old Testament of individuals who were deceived by sin? What can you learn from their mistakes? (Eve – Gen 3, Israel – Num 14, David – 2 Sam 11, Achan – Joshua 7, King Uzziah – 2 Chron 26, Demas – 2 Tim 4:10)
3. How do you view the Church community: as a luxury or a **necessity**? How well do you think you could live the Christian life in isolation? Is it a sin not to be concerned for the souls of others in our Church community?
4. What specific action could you take to encourage someone else in our church community who is struggling? Do you currently know of anyone who is struggling who needs encouragement? What must you do in order to **become more aware** of wounded Christian soldiers who need to be encouraged?
5. Do you think Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church is a community where wounded Christians can come and be healed and encouraged? What can we do together as a body to ensure that we create a truthful & firm but also a **loving atmosphere** where Christians can heal, grow & flourish in their walk with Jesus?
6. Are you spurning the means of grace God is giving you to fight the battle by not being involved in some sort of **small group** where people know you and you know people? What is God calling you to do to remedy that problem?
7. Maybe you don’t like people. Maybe you don’t want to be involved in other people’s lives!? Is this sin? Is this the wrong attitude? Ask God to help you be a person who is being “used” as a hand, foot, eye, ear, or whatever to benefit the body of Christ! (Read 1 Cor 12:14-26, especially v. 24-25)

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