



## “Christian Responsibility – Encouraging One Another” (Hebrews 10:19-39)

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v.24 KJV translates it this way: “And let us consider one another to **provoke** unto love and to good works.” The word provoke is often used in a negative connotation, but here it is used in a very positive connotation. It means to arouse, incite, stimulate. Now note verse 25. How many have come to realize that just being together in a church service encourages us toward love and good deeds. Hey, don’t ever stop being a part of church meetings. As a matter of fact, the text says to meet even more often as we see “the Day” approaching. I think all of us would agree that in considering the message of three weeks ago when we looked at signs that tell us His coming is very soon, we all see “the Day” approaching.

How to be prepared?

1. Oil of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:1-13 ; John 3:3, 5-6; Rom.10:2; II Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15)
  - Need more than religious commitment.
2. Heavenly Financial Investments (Matthew 25:14-30)
  - Follow the trail of your time, energy, affections, and money...
3. Heavenly Personal Investments (Matthew 25:31-46)
  - “Any spirituality that does not lead from a self-centered to an other-centered mode of existence is bankrupt” (Brennan Manning).
4. Stay Alert and Maintain Self Control (I Thess.5:3-11; I Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; Prov.25:28).
  - Word for alert in verse 6 is gr-go-re'-, and it means **1) to watch 2) metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active a) to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one. It is the same word used in Matt.24:42; 25:13; Rev.16:15.**

- I suggest to you that this point is at least implied in vv.26-31 of our text. Note I John 3:9-10.

## 5. Keep Up Your Courage (I Cor.16:13)

- Certainly this point is addressed in vv.32-34 of our text.
- On the road to the cross, Jesus stands before a Roman governor named Pilate. The Jewish leaders wanted to have Jesus crucified, but since Rome is in power over them, they have to get the Roman authorities to condemn Jesus to death. And so they bring Jesus to Pilate. The encounter between Jesus and Pilate is fascinating, and one we can learn a great deal from. Let me read some excerpts for you and I think you'll see what I mean. Read John 18:33-38. Pilate asks an excellent question – “What is truth?” but Jesus has already answered that question. HE is truth (John 14:6). We know from other accounts of this encounter between Pilate and Jesus that God speaks to Pilate very clearly about the truth Jesus refers to (See Matthew 27:19; John 19:4-11). There is a word for Pilate's mental and emotional state at this point, it's called conviction (“the state of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of a truth”). Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, and he is compelled to believe he is also a king, and that his kingdom is of another world. To put it in as simple terms as I can, Pilate believes in Jesus. Now note verse 12 (read verses 12-16). Once again we need to read from Matthew's account of the story to get a full understanding of what really happened (see Matthew 22:22-24). Do you see the full picture now? If not, let me try and help you. Pilate is a man confronted with the truth about Jesus Christ. God even uses his own wife to help him make the right decision regarding Jesus. Once convinced of the truth, Pilate sought to set Jesus free. But the pressure of the crowd moves him to stand before them and “wash his hands” of the matter. In doing so, he attempts to rid himself of responsibility. In essence, Pilate took a stance that was not **against** Jesus, but at the same time it was a stance that was not **for** Jesus. There's a term we use to describe what Pilate did, it's called a “cop out” (an excuse, avoiding responsibility to avoid trouble; a cowardly or feeble evasion).
- What do you believe about Jesus Christ? If you believe His claim that He is indeed the way, the truth, and the life, and that no man comes to the Father except through Him, you also have to believe his statement “He who is not with me is against me.”
- Jesus also said, “If you confess me before me, I will confess you before my Father in heaven. But if you deny me, I will also deny you.” See Rom.10:9-10.

- Ever since I was a child I have believed in Jesus Christ. But I was not “saved” until I was 19 years old. It was at age nineteen that I asked God to forgive me of my sin, and I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. After doing so, I knew had to openly confess Him before my family, my friends, and the world.
- There is an interesting list of the character of people who are not “saved” in Rev.21:7-8. Read list but leave out “the cowardly” in verse eight, then point out that it is the first characteristic listed.
- It takes courage to follow Jesus Christ. There is a cost to being His disciple.
- When I am courageous in my faith, I encourage others to be courageous.
- When I give in to fear, I influence others to give in to fear.
- See Deut. 20:1-8; Numbers 13:26-14:4; I Samuel 13:5-7; summarize 14:1-15, noting verse 6. Then read 14:20-23; Philippians 1:12-14; Luke 22:32; Phil.1:20; Heb.3:6.

#### 6. Persevere (Heb.10:32-39)

### CONCLUSION

- I John 2:28
- Lord, help us to encourage one another to say no to sin, to maintain self-control, to be courageous as we stand for truth, and to persevere to the end.