



WHO HAS NOT ATTENDED/JOINED CONNECT GROUP IN A WHILE? TAKE TIME OUT AT UPFRONT TO PRAY FOR THEM!

* Ask someone in the group to open in prayer.

 To exhort is to earnestly support or encourage a response or action.

 Read: 2 Tim 4:2 (ESV):

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching"

- When the word is preached to us, these are the responses we should have or feel.
 - Discuss REPROVE, REBUKE and EXHORT. What are they, and how should we respond to them?
 - When we hear the word of God or read it, how can we ensure that we respond with an action?


Consider this: The New Testament was written due to the kinds of concerns and challenges that early Christians faced. Each letter was written to serve some specific pastoral need and answer a whole range of important questions arising out of the life of the church at that time. Faced with the same or new challenges, Christians kept turning to these texts to find guidance from the apostolic witnesses and, ultimately, from their Lord himself. This is what we still need to be doing today.

WHAT IN YOUR MIND WAS THE KEY TAKE-OUT FROM SUNDAYS MESSAGE?

 2 Tim 2:14-16:

Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

- How do you feel we can avoid these things?
- Why is it so easy to get wrapped up in?
- What do you feel we can do instead of quarrelling or godless chatter?

 2 Tim 2:3-7 says this:

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them. And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules. And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor. Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

Consider that each of these three occupations need great perseverance and focus to succeed:


- The soldier who stops fighting before the battle is finished will never see victory
- The athlete who stops running before the race is over will never win or complete the race
- The farmer who stops working before the harvest is complete will never see the fruit of his crops

Question: so how are you responding to what is going on around you, around all of us?

Consider that when Paul was in prison:

- He prayed for others
- He encouraged others
- He warned against disunity
- He reminded us to stay in the word of Truth

You are not a captive now. Do you believe that the devil can stop you from doing what God is calling you to do?!

 2 Tim 2:9-10 says this:

And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

Consider this: That when you are being locked in, and not actively pursuing the things of God or doing what He may be calling you to do, you are possibly being disobedient. Make sure you do not stop ministering, but pray and ask God to show you how you can help the church and His body.

* Let us pray pray over the following:

- For people who feel this message spoke to them - trust for meaningful and Spirit-led prayer
- For our economy to improve
- That many will come to salvation in this time