

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 3:12,13; 10:24.**  
(**Heb 3:12-13**) Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. [13] But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.  
(**Heb 10:24**) and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
- B. To exhort is to: warn, urge, encourage, counsel, strengthen or comfort. To build up and help others live, better lives.
- C. This morning's lesson is to show the need for exhortation and how to give it.

## II. WHY GIVE EXHORTATION?

- A. First, to keep one from having a hard heart (see Heb. 3:12b,13).  
...evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. [13] But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
1. One's heart does not become hard immediately.
  2. Over a period of time one can develop: a hardened heart.
  3. Unbelief can cause many other sins.
  4. God cannot work in a hard heart.
- B. Second, to keep one from departing from God (see Heb. 3:12c).  
...in falling away from the living God.
1. How sad, to have salvation and then go back to the world.
  2. God never changes or leaves, but we can leave Him.
  3. Again, this process is never immediate. It takes time.
  4. To fall away is worse than ever knowing God at all.
- C. Third, to provide a gentle push in the right direction (see Heb. 10:24).  
and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
1. Exhortation is something that must be thought out in advance.
  2. It can (and should) become a daily part of our lives (see Heb. 3:13a).  
But encourage one another day after day,...
  3. It doesn't have to cost any money.
  4. It can pay big dividends to both giver and receiver.
- D. Fourth, to keep one away from the sins that easily beset (Heb. 12:1).  
Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
1. Keep our life focused on Jesus (Heb. 12:2).  
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
  2. Keep contending for the faith (Jude 3).  
Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
  3. Keep praying always (1Th. 5:17).  
pray without ceasing;
  4. Keep being a spiritual sacrifice (Rom. 12:1,2).  
I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

### III. SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF GIVING EXHORTATION.

- A. Some NT examples of those who gave exhortation:
1. Peter exhorted his listeners in the first gospel sermon (Ac. 2:40).  
And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"
  2. Preachers are to be exhorters (2Tim. 4:1,2).  
I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: [2] preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
  3. Elders are to be exhorters (Ti. 1:9).  
holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
  4. Older people are to exhort the younger (Ti. 2:4,6).  
(Ti 2:4) that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,  
(Ti 2:6) Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;
  5. Parents are to exhort their children (Eph. 6:4).  
And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- B. Xians are to exhort each other. It' is an important responsibility (see Heb. 3:12,13; 10:24).

### IV. HOW TO GIVE EXHORTATION.

- A. Six important things to remember about giving exhortation. Do it:
1. **Gently.**  
Exhort with meekness and maturity of spirit (Gal. 6:1).  
Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.
  2. **Patiently.**  
Exhort with all long-suffering (2Tim. 2:24,25).  
And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, [25] with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
  3. **Helpfully.**  
Exhort with assistance to keep temptation away (1Th. 5:14,15).  
And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. [15] See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.
  4. ...with **Forbearance.**  
Extend the time of repayment of a debt (Eph. 4:2).  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,
  5. ...with **Soft Words.**  
Turn away wrath and sin by exhortation (Prov. 15:1).  
A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.
  6. **Daily.**  
Give exhortation as often as it is needed--daily (see Heb. 3:13).
- B. Everyone can give exhortation.

### V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Exhortation is vital to the overall spiritual growth of the congregation.
- B. Exhortation:  
Who? ...every Xian. When? ...every day. How? ...gently, patiently, helpfully, always forbearing.  
Why? ...to keep one from a hard heart that falls away from God.
- C. The invitation is an exhortation to be saved.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.