

BUILD EACH OTHER UP

Paul told the Thessalonians to “edify one another” (1 Thess. 5:11). The word “edify” comes from the Greek word *oikodomeo* which is translated more than thirty times in the New Testament as “build” or “built”. It’s the same word used by Jesus in Matthew 7:24 when He spoke of the wise man who “built his house on the rock.” The word “edifice” (a building) is derived from this Greek word. J.H. Thayer, the Greek scholar, says this word in the Bible suggests the act of promoting one’s growth in the areas of wisdom, piety, holiness and happiness. W.E. Vine says it is “promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example.

One of the highest **duties** a Christian has is to **encourage** and to build-up other Christians; to help them grow in faith. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair; and where many “Christians” tear and bite at each other (often in the self-righteous guise of “being honest” or “just defending the truth,” etc.), the need for building up, **GOD’S WAY**, is ever more apparent. How can we help build each other up? Consider the following suggestions:

Attitude Changes: Attitudes in many cases have to change. Rather than attitudes of selfishness or hate, we must develop those of love and selflessness. God says, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than himself” (Phil. 2:3). Instead of the attitude, “Someone else will do it; or “they have more time than I do,” or similar wrong thoughts, we must change our thinking to, “No, it’s my duty too, as a Christian and as a friend.” Instead of thinking “I don’t care,” we must say “I must care and be concerned.”

Prayer To God: We must pray to God for strength. We need strength to put these things into action as soon as possible. Paul said that “it is Christ who enables (strengthens) us” (1 Tim. 1:12). We need God’s help through prayer to overcome personal fears. We need God’s strength in eliminating other reasons that may be causing us to distance ourselves from needy brethren.

Personal Initiative: Don’t wait for someone to come to you first. Go to someone who you know needs encouragement. The “I will one of these days” attitude must change to an “I’m going to do it now” attitude. God tells us, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb 3:13). Listen to the announcements made each week from the pulpit; call the members to find out who is sick or who has particular needs. Secure a list of the elderly, they can always use an encouraging hand, especially those that are “shut-in.”

God’s & Common Sense Knowledge: God’s teaching, and also down to earth common sense, play extremely important parts in building someone up. We must have knowledge of what’s needed, and common sense of how best to approach brethren. We certainly do not want to be intrusive, impolite or unfeeling. Even when exhorting someone who needs to be lifted from sin, one must endeavor to be gentle, patient, and humble. Paul told Timothy, “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will...” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Let’s all work at “building each other up”—GOD’S WAY. In turn, the Lord will help us to be built up.

- Author unknown

“Pride”

It is not surprising that the apostle John who was known as the “apostle of love” is the one who wrote so much concerning the love we should have one for another. In 1 John 4:19-21, we read, “*We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*” Sometimes it seems that Christian love is very misunderstood. There are many brethren who are actually not showing love for the brethren the way God has commanded us to do.

What did the apostle John want all of us to understand about Christian love? He wanted us to understand that to say and to do are two completely different things (1 John 3:18). John showed us that it is possible to say that we have love for God when we do not even have love for the brethren (1John 4:19-20). John lets us know that such is not possible. It is simply not possible for anyone to love God without also loving his brethren. If anyone says that he or she loves God when that person actually does not even love the brethren, such a one is a liar. This is very important for all of us to understand because whether or not we will enter heaven could depend on this. The Scriptures teach that NO liars will enter heaven; and, therefore, if we are guilty of saying that we love God when we do not even love the brethren, we are considered by God as liars and therefore are not qualified to enter heaven. (Rev. 21:8). Also, the Lord Himself commanded all of us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

How do we sometimes show that we do not really love the brethren? It may be evidenced by the fact that we do not want to have anything to do with some of the brethren. There are times when it is wise to stay away from some people to avoid problems, but it seems that sometimes we shun others simply because we do not have love for them or we do not like them for some reason. Perhaps they have said something to us that we just did not care to hear - pride will cause us to shut them out. Perhaps they did something to us that we simply did not appreciate - pride will hinder us from going to them and scripturally correcting the problem (Matt 18:15).

Whatever may be the case we all need to be very careful that we will not some day be told by the Lord that the reason we cannot enter heaven is because we did not take the time to love the brethren. Are you guilty of having selfish pride? If you are, correct it before it is too late.

Yes, my friends, the problem of pride is a dangerous thing, but let us all take note that the one who suffers from this terrible disease (sin) is the one who will receive the most repercussions.

John Hall

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Jim Johnson remains in isolation at Methodist Hospital on Union in Memphis after his stem cell transplant.

Darlene Felts continues to be in serious condition in NEA, Room 4118.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed.

Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

Baylee Wooten

In Other News:

This week's featured tract to read and share: Salvation is Free but is NOT Cheap.

The author answers the question: “What does the Bible say about salvation by grace?”

Each week a list of those who are absent for both services Sunday is compiled. Thank you for filling out an attendance card as it helps us keep up with absentees. That list will be placed on the tables in the foyer for us to pick up and check on our brothers and sisters who may need our help and encouragement. If you see an error on the list, please let us know.

Those Privileged To Serve

November 15, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Mark Brewer
Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley
Bible Reading: David Dye
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mike Felts
J. L. May James Johnson
Reginald Read Scottie Blanchard
Gerald George Jack Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: Stacy Eddleman
Closing Prayer: Barry Roush
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

November 15, 2020
Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Jerry Dodson
Closing Prayer: Dan Nichols

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

November 18, 2020
Mark Wooten

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

November 8, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	107
Sunday AM Worship	131
Sunday PM Worship	99
Wednesday Bible Study	82
Contribution	\$6358

“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”

Proverbs 21:1

The Friend of Truth

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Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

Each and every Lord's Day is a good day. It is good because we commune with God and offer our worship to Him. It is good because we come together as one and rejoice together as one, and we enjoy our common goals and aspirations. It is always good to come together with the people of God and spend time worshipping. So yes, every Lord's Day and every Wednesday night are good times for us as we gather together.

This past Lord's Day was better because we had better numbers with the largest crowd we have had since March when all this chaos began. Satan has worked hard to discourage us and hinder our way, but we are all determined to continue to fight. We must be strong and courageous and not wait for Satan to come against us. We must be taking the fight to Satan. He is our enemy and we will overcome him (I Peter 5:8,9).

Remember this is “No Excuse November” so do not look for an excuse not to be present with the saints. Let us look for even more opportunities to do good and help our brethren, our friends and our neighbors. Let us pray that God will open doors of opportunity for us to use to spread the borders of His kingdom. Look around and do not let this virus cause us not to be friendly and encouraging to visitors who come and visit from time to time. Look for someone you do not know or are not well-acquainted with and make this a time to get to know more of our brethren.

One good thing that this pandemic has caused is that many of us are having to find new places to sit each week. With this is the opportunity to be surrounded by those we may not know as well, giving us the opportunity to meet and become better acquainted with our brethren. Let us continue to be wise in all our ways, but let us not allow Satan to use the virus to discourage us or hinder us from our work in Christ.

Finally, remember all our sick folks. We have several who are not able to be with us because they have weakened immune systems and cannot fight off viruses, flu, and such. So please remember all of these in your prayers. My heart aches for all of those who want to be with us and cannot. I also fear for those who could be with us and look for excuses not to come. Let us all be strong and of good cheer as we face these coming weeks. God bless us and keep us; this continues to be our prayer.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Micah Robertson
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision,
the people perish....”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision
in 2020

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com