

PROFITABLE EXHORTATION

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. To **exhort** means to urge, advise, caution earnestly.
- B. It is one way of teaching - "reprove, rebuke, and exhort" 2 Tim. 2:4.
- C. Timothy was taught to give heed to exhortation. 1 Tim. 4:13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."
- D. Paul was possibly the greatest exhorter.
- E. PURPOSE: To consider some specific exhortations he gave.
- F. Text: 1 Thess. 5:16-22 "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

II. "REJOICE EVERMORE."

- A. This rejoicing is in the Lord.
 - 1. Phil 3:1: "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe."
 - 2. Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."
- B. We rejoice in hope.
 - 1. Rom. 5:2: "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
 - 2. Heb. 3:6: "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."
- C. Rejoice after obedience.
 - 1. The Eunuch. Acts 8:39 "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."
 - 2. The Philippian Jailer. Acts 16:34: "And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."
- D. The apostles rejoiced when they suffered for His name.
 - 1. Acts 5:41: "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."
 - 2. 1 Pet. 4:16 "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

III. "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."

- A. Men ought always to pray. Lk. 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
- B. Prayer is associated with the use of the sword of the spirit. Eph. 6:17-18: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."
- C. It is the way the Christian gets what he needs.
 - 1. 1 Pet. 3:12. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."
 - 2. 1 Jno. 3:22: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his

sight."

3. 1 Jno. 5:14-15: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."
4. Jas. 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
5. Jas. 1:5. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..."
6. 1 Tim. 2:1-2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
7. 1 Pet. 3:7: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

IV. "IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS."

- A. "In every thing give thanks: For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thess. 5:18.
- B. With prayer and supplication or appeal. Phil. 4:6: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
- C. For all men. 1 Tim. 2:1-2 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
- D. Note the order: Rejoice, pray and give thanks.
- E. Have much for which to be thankful.
- F. Count your blessings!

V. "QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT."

- A. Meaning:
 1. "Is used of quenching fire or things on fire" (Vine, 240).
 2. "Put an end to; stop; drown out; put out" (Scott, Foresman Dictionary, 905).
- B. The Holy Spirit, God's agent for teaching us what we need to know, is described as a fire we can put out.
 1. We must listen to His teaching in the scripture. 2 Pet. 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
 2. If we do not, it is the same as if we poured water on a fire.
 3. We quench the Spirit by refusing His instruction.
- C. Some resist the Spirit. Acts 7:51: "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."
- D. Some grieve the Spirit. Eph. 4:30: "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

VI. "DESPISE NOT PROPHECYINGS."

- A. Prophesying is teaching.
- B. One of the spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 12:10: "To another the working of miracles; to

another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues."

- C. Miraculous prophesying has ended. 1 Cor. 13:8: "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."
- D. Some despised faithful prophesying or teaching. Stephen. Acts 7:51-60. (READ)
- E. Paul was concerned with how some would receive his teaching. Gal. 4:16: "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"
- F. We don't have to fight preaching to despise - just refuse to obey it.

VII. "PROVE ALL THINGS."

- A. Try your teachers. 1 Jno. 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Rev. 2:2: "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars."
- B. Hold fast that which is good.

VIII. "ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL."

- A. 1 Jno. 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Rom. 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Tit. 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Gal. 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
- B. Christians are dead to sin.
 - 1. Rom. 6:1-2: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"
 - 2. Rom. 6:11-12: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."
- C. Get sin out of your life. 1 Jno. 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" Col. 3:5: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."
- D. A way of escape is provided. 1 Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to

escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

IX. CONCLUSION.

- A. Have you obeyed - are you obeying - these exhortations?
- B. If not, when do you intend to start obeying them?