



food for thought

Edify One Another

At the close of the Apostle Paul's 1st letter to the church at Thessalonica, he encouraged to “edify one another” (1 The 5:11). The word “edify” (Gr *oikodomeo*) occurs 39 times in the original text and with the exception of 8 times, it is translated as “build or built”. Our Lord chose to use this exact word when He spoke of the wise man who “built his house on the rock” (Mt 7:24). We must not only listen to Him; we must obey Him.

Paul's idea was Christians should “build one another up” in the faith. They were to exhort one another. This meant to strengthen one another with encouragement. To help each other to grow to greater Spiritual maturity. The Christian must always be growing in maturity. Paul commended them for doing this and was encouraging them to keep on doing this. The tenses are present tense (indicate continuous action). One of the highest duties a Christian has is to encourage others. In a world filled with pessimism, violence and despair, our need should be to exhort, which is tremendously great. It is all too easy to let the “ways of the wicked” (Psa 9:17) become the way all things are conducted. “Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful” (Psa 1:1). Thayer comments “the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christians wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness” (*Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament*, p. 440). In the words of W. E. Vine, it is “used metaphorically, in the sense of edifying promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching/by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor” (*Expository Dictionary Of Biblical Words*, p. 194).

Christians should look forward to an isle of retreat on the Lord's Day (Ac 20:7). A place where God's Name is blessed, not cursed; we can enjoy the “seasons of refreshing” which only God can provide (Ac 3:19). It is truly a shame the Christians do not spend more time in each other's company. The Hebrew writer says, “...consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” (Heb 10:24). After the command, he tells us how it is to be accomplished, i.e., “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb 10:25).

In the days of Haggai, God's People grew discouraged while working to rebuild the temple. God commanded them to get back to work, then gave them comfort by saying, “...for I *am* with you...” (Hag 2:4). Allow your mind to imagine what it meant for those Jews knowing the Lord was with them. Remembering how Jehovah had been with their fathers as they passed through the Red Sea. They knew God had “led them by the hand” through the wilderness on their way to Canaan. In view of His Goodness, how could they doubt Him now? In a similar vain, Jesus has promised to be “in the midst” of His Disciples when they assemble (Mt 18:20). What a thought!! The Son of God in our midst every Lord's Day. He has promised to be with us as He taught His Apostles how to carry out the great commission (Mt 28:20). Do you desire to be in the presence of the Lord and His People? As we run our race toward eternal glory, let us continually encourage each other and “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...” (Heb 12:1, 2).





PRAYER REQUEST

Continuous Prayers: Walter Simon, Mack & Carolyn Clouds, Ron Forge, Christina Jones, Miguel Graves, Joyce Fair Patricia Hurd, Ruby Busby (Bro/Sis Busby's FAMILY), Sheila Harris, Curtis Ward, Joyce Gutierrez, Vernon Skinner (Sis Skinner's son), Mattie Stafford, Annette Rolette, Chris White (Sis White's son) Adam McCants (Bro Ramsey's daughter father-in-law), Ray and Byron Busby (Bro/Sis Busby's sons) Joel Sotelo Vazquez / Bertha Tapia [Mexico City, Mexico], Alfredo Cabrera/Ana Yescas (Bro Ramsey's friend) Maria Diaz (Sis Skinner's neighbor), Willie Gray (Sis Gray's brother-in-law) Anthony Yescas (Bro Ramsey's friend)

Sick: Arthur Henry, Dan Allen, Jerry Birdow, Jose (Bro Spataro's friend)

General: Demetria Washington, Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother), Kelvin & Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brothers), Simon Young, Sam Lily (Sis Guthrie's stepson), James Hunter, Jr, Michael Neazer, M. Staton, Millicent Douglas (Sis Glasker's niece), John Carpenter (Sis Simon's brother) Jason Reeves & FAMILY (Sis A. Anderson's friend)

UPDATES:

1. Please ensure [we] have ALL relevant information pertaining to birthdays and anniversaries for our Bulletin to be current, so [we] may collectively participate in these extra special events with you. If in doubt, please share it, again for ALL of us to know.
2. **Bro Birdow** was released from Methodist Central and is home recuperating [21 Nov]

Upcoming Activities / Announcements

1. **Door Knocking Campaign** Postponed until further notice.
2. Christmas [**Holiday**]: 25 Dec 20 [Last Friday in December]
3. New Year's Day [**Holiday**]: 01 Jan 21 [First Friday in January]

December's *Birthdays*

- [17] Jacqui Brager
- [21] Pat Skinner
- [29] Lorena Hunter
- [31] BeBe Kay

Anniversaries

- [28] The Brager's

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

Galatians 6:2 – 5

INTRODUCTION:

1. As long as [we] live this life, it will be the fate of all men to have burdens to bear.
2. The greatest and heaviest burdens are **NOT** always visible to the eye of man.
 - A. If [we] only knew the fierce battles some are fighting, it would change our lives.
 1. It would teach us lessons of restraint and charity.
3. In studying the Bible, [we] see there are 3 things [we] are to do with burdens:
 - A. Bear our own (Gal 6:5).
 - B. Bear one another's (Gal 6:2).
 - C. Cast our burden upon the Lord (Psa 55:22).

BODY:

1. EVERY MAN SHALL BEAR HIS OWN BURDEN (GAL 6:5)

- A. Some of the burdens [we] are called upon to bear are non-transferable.
- B. God has given each person their own personal responsibilities/cross to bear (Lk 9:23).
 1. **NO** one can believe on the Lord for you (Jn 8:24).
 2. **NO** one can repent of your sins for you (Lk 13:3).
 3. **NO** one can be baptized for you (Mk 16:16).
 4. **NO** one can perform your Christian duties for you (Rom 12:1, 2).
 5. **NO** one can answer at judgment for you (Rom 14:12).
- C. It is sheer foolishness for a Christian to try to get lost in the crowd in order to attempt to avoid bearing their own burdens (Psa 33:13).

2. BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS (GAL 6:2)

- A. Paul knew some of our burdens are to be shared with others (Php 2:4).
 1. [We] need to "rightly divide" God's Word (2 Tim 2:15) to keep His Word in context.
 - A. The key to understanding Gal 6:2 is the previous verse (Gal 6:1).
 2. In viewing these 2 verses together, Paul is discussing mutual burden-bearing in relation to seeking to assist those [whom we know] have gone astray.
 - A. Simply put in understandable words, [we] should seek to "restore them".
 - B. This is to be done in a Spirit of meekness [gentleness] and fear (1 Pet 3:15).
- C. [We] must see a broader meaning includes other types of burdens (Gal 6:2).
 1. It includes the burden of sorrow (1 Cor 12:26).
 2. It includes the burden of need for material things (Jas 1:27; 2:15, 16).

3. CAST THY BURDENS UPON THE LORD (PSA 55:22)

- A. It is easily seen there are some burdens beyond the reach of human effort and aid.
 1. These are to be cast upon the Lord, for He has promised to sustain us (Php 4:6, 7).
- B. As these burdens come and go, if it be God's Will, He Will take them away (1 Pet 5:7).
 1. If it is **NOT** His Will, He Will give us sufficient strength to bear up.
 - A. 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Cor 12:7-10

CONCLUSION:

1. As Christians, [we] should do all [we] can to assume the responsibilities [we] are to assume.
2. [We] must be conscience of the burdens involving others.
 - A. [We] must be aware [we] are indeed our "brother's keeper" (Gen 4:9).