

# ***Encourage***

Introduction: We've spent the last two weeks talking about the "worship" aspect of why we gather together as a church. But that's not the only reason our gathering with the saints is so important. Barnabas is a great example of the other reason for being here with fellow Christians—encouragement.

## **I. HE CONTRIBUTED TO NEEDS OF BRETHERN**

- A. Barnabas' personal sacrifice supplied for the well-being of his new fellow Christians. (cf. Acts 2; Acts 4:32-37)
- B. There will always be needs in the church (physical/spiritual).
- C. Sacrificial contribution is encouraging because it shows that the physical and spiritual well-being of our brethren is of greater value than our monetary possessions.

## **II. HE FOCUSED ON DEVALUED DISCIPLES**

- A. Read Acts 9:26-28. Barnabas accepted Saul after his conversion when other brethren in Jerusalem rejected him.
- B. Read Acts 15:35-41. Barnabas looked past John-Mark's shortcomings & recognized his usefulness in the Lord's work.
- C. How we accept & include brethren makes all the difference between encouragement and discouragement. (Phil. 2:1-4)
- D. All Christians need to be included, involved, & accepted.

## **III. HE HAD DEDICATED CHURCH INVOLVEMENT**

- A. Read Acts 11:22-26.
  - 1. Vs. 22: He was willing to go the distance.
  - 2. Vs. 23: He offered positive reinforcement for a progressive relationship with God.
  - 3. Vs. 24: His godly character served as an encouraging example that aided in bringing others to Christ.
  - 4. Vs. 25: He was committed in attendance at the local congregation for the edification of the saints.
- B. One primary reason Christ established His church: encouragement. (Heb. 10:24, 25)
- C. The motivation for our continued faithfulness is largely effected by the attendance & involvement of others.

Conclusion: The task for encouragement is not only for the leaders in the church. Even encouragers need encouragement. (Gal. 2:11-13)