

Indio Informer

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Push the Right Buttons

By Bruce Evans

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

The word “stimulate” seems to serve as a crux in the passage noted above. In other translations of the Scriptures, “provoke”, “stir” “consider”, “sparking”, and “spur” are used in place of “stimulate”. The definition of “stimulate” is “to excite to activity or growth or to greater activity: arouse”. Which strikes a somewhat more positive turn than “provoke”, which carries a definition of “...give rise to (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone.”

Regardless of what word is used in Hebrews 10:24, we all understand the gist thereof; we have a responsibility to “push the right button” for one another. This being done in order to embrace “love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together”. Unfortunately, too many times we “push the wrong button”, maybe not intentionally, but nevertheless the deed is done. It should realize a priority to want only the best for one another.

A couple of passages stand out in 1Corinthians, chapter twelve. “For the body is not one member, but many” (v 14) “But now there are many members, but one body.” (v 20) For the body (the church) to function correctly it requires each member to do his or her part. Now there will be times when each member will need to be roused in to action. Oft times that exhortation may come from

**Thank you, again, Lewis Frisby!
Speaker for today**

Encourage One Another

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Hebrews 10:24-25

May Birthdays

15 Kena Brown

May Anniversaries

5 Aaron & Esmeralda McCollum

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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self. Remember that old saying, that recently re-surfaced in a popular song, “Feet don’t fail me now”. That saying connotes a self-imposed plea to keep moving forward, to not let any adversity hold you back; find a resolve within and press toward the goal.

“Push the right button” in self in order to “push the right button” in others. Now think about what is found in Ephesians 4:15-16. *“But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”* In a manner of speaking, if it is to be, it is up to me,..but that doesn’t mean you get “off scot free”.

“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1Thessalonians 5:11) How blessed it is to know the “right button” to push in others. To see them respond in a positive fashion, with an expectation that they will in turn pass it along. Pay it forward so to speak. The building up of one another is a recurring theme seen throughout the New Testament as evidenced in Romans 14:19. *“So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”*

Did you notice the word “pursue” in the just noted passage? That word carries the notion of seeking out. One dictionary notes as a synonym for pursue, “to bird-dog”. In short, as children of God and member of the body of Christ we are to actively look for ways to build up one another. To push one another’s button in a way to uplifts and promotes peace.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Do Not Get Discouraged

(Galatians 6:9)

Mike Johnson

Galatians 6:1-10 encourages us in Christian living. It points out that in a spirit of humility and gentleness, those who are spiritual are to try to restore those involved in sin. It also teaches that we are to bear the burdens of others and assist financially those who are teaching God’s Word. He then points out that as we have the opportunity, we must do good to everyone, especially our fellow Christians.

Amid these words of exhortation, the writer uses a farming comparison that says everyone will reap as they have sown (7-8). If people sow to the “flesh,” they will reap “corruption,” but if they sow to the Spirit, the reaping would be “life everlasting.” If someone sows to the flesh and is able to reap life everlasting, that would be mocking God, but the verses tell us that God cannot be mocked — thus, we reap what we sow.

Imagine a farmer who toils in the heat all day to plant a crop. Then, a few days later, he returns to the field expecting a harvest, but there is none there. He says, “I’ve worked so hard but have nothing to show for it.” He goes away discouraged. We recognize the unreasonableness of the farmer who obviously must continue his work, and one day he will receive the fruit of his labor.

Similarly, we “sow” here upon this earth, trying to do what these verses tell us. However, we may get discouraged due to disappointments and hardships while living the Christian life. “Sowing” is not always easy. With this in mind, Galatians 6:9 has these words of encouragement: *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* The “reaping” will be everlasting life (6:8b), i.e., heaven — a place of eternal joy, rest, and peace. Thus, we must continue sowing and not give up — for, in due season, we shall reap if we do not grow weary and give up.