

The Church: A Place of Encouragement

Acts 20:1-12

Main Point:

Seek to make our church a greater place of encouragement, as you are also being encouraged by its ministry.

1. The church is a place of encouragement and spiritual growth.
2. Because the church is a place of loving fellowship.
3. Because the church is a place of sacrificial giving.
4. Because the church is a place of Word-centered worship.
5. Because the church is a place of resurrection power.

Derek Thomas “The main thing that Luke wants us to see, the ‘bookends’ that support the entire story, is Paul’s ministry of ‘encouragement’ ...”

Philippians 1:3-5 ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:8 ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (NKJV)

Acts 19:21 ²¹ When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." (NKJV)

Romans 15:26-27 ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 ³ For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. (NKJV)

Dennis Johnson “This was not merely a social event but an assembly for worship, in which Paul preached and the Lord’s Supper was observed ...”

Derek Thomas “Unless we cultivate an appetite for the exposition of Scripture, we will never grow as Christians. Instead of being among those who are always wanting less exposition, we should be among those always desiring more.”

Simon Kistemaker “By this miracle Paul demonstrated the reality of Jesus’ presence in the midst of God’s people.”

John 14:16 ¹⁶ “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- (NKJV)