
Sermon Notes

August 7, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Stir Up One Another

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Go Team!

- ❖ The football huddle
 - players huddle to celebrate and affirm one another for plays that have gone right
 - players huddle to strategize and motivate one another for "the next play"
- ❖ The Lord gathers His people in shared worship for some remarkably similar purposes
 - we celebrate what a great God we have
 - we strategize about the next steps in becoming more like Jesus
 - we motivate one another to keep running the race and fighting the fight

The Problem

- ❖ Some in the early church were neglecting public worship and disregarding their church family
 - drifting back to Judaism
 - fear of persecution
 - not convinced of the necessity of regular attendance and participation in the body of Christ
- ❖ The same tendencies and temptations trip up believers today
- ❖ Sanctification & progress in the faith are best cultivated in the soil of Christ-centered worship & fellowship (J. Payne)

The Solution

- ❖ Being an active part of a worshipping community is vital to maintaining our spiritual health
 - we're all in danger of plateauing, coasting, even falling backwards in our faith
 - we all need one another to keep us fresh and focused on love and good works
- ❖ *Consider*
 - consider what? consider whom? (*cf.* Hebrews 3:1)
 - look at, think about, focus on, study Jesus!
 - there is an intensity about this

- To whom or what are we called to give this kind of diligent study and scrutiny?
 - look at, think about, focus on **ONE ANOTHER**
 - how can **I** stir up (*lit.* provoke/irritate) my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to love & good works?
 - this focus gives our lives purpose and direction

The "How To"

- ❖ What is God's prescription for us so we do not just slink and slide through our days?
 - v. 25, don't neglect meeting together
 - encourage one another
- ❖ When we gather together to hear the Word, confess sin, sing praise, confess our faith, meet at the Lord's Table, and warmly greet one another in the name of Jesus, we are actively stirring up one another to love and good works
 - your active and joyful participation in Lord's Day worship is integral to the spiritual encouragement and growth of others
 - your absence has the opposite effect
- ❖ Steady devotion to corporate worship communicates a love for and dependence upon the triune God AND a love for and commitment to the body of Christ (Jon D. Payne)
- ❖ The importance of small groups
 - a place for prayer, support, fellowship and application of God's Word
 - how do the affections of your heart line up with v. 25?

- ❖ As the Day of Christ comes closer, we will need more, **NOT LESS** opportunity to offer mutual encouragement to one another
 - we need to help one another stay focused on our hope
 - we need to keep pointing and orienting one another toward our faithful God who keeps His promises
- ❖ The huddle is necessary, but it is not the game
 - we need to break from the huddle, get back on the field, and run the plays Jesus calls and equips us to make
 - in just another 7 days, we will have the joy, refreshment, and renewal that comes from gathering again, huddling around the Savior, connecting with one another, motivating and encouraging one another to keep moving forward

Personal Reflection

1. Based on this text, where or how do your attitudes about shared worship need to be challenged and/or revised?
2. Are you in the habit of neglecting corporate worship and/or small groups? What do you need to do to break yourself of this habit? Will you do that?
3. How aware are you of the vital role you play in strengthening the faith of others by your active and joyful participation in shared worship? How do you think God is using you to stir up others in the church to love and good works?
4. How is our "weekly huddle" preparing you to "get back on the field and run the plays Jesus calls and equips you to make"?