



Worship Guide for **September 15, 2019**

Sermon Notes

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured: westwoodguest

Gospel Encouragement

Acts 20:1-12 (pew Bible pg. 929)

While you may not be able to name the specific characters, many of us are vaguely familiar with the story of the boy who falls asleep in a late-night church service while Paul preaches on (and on and on), and then falls out of the window. After his deadly three-story fall, God restored his life, and Paul went right on with his teaching until daybreak. Perhaps you can identify with the Sunday morning struggle with slumber. But the focus of this passage isn't about the importance of staying awake in corporate worship (although that's important!).

Today's passage is about encouragement, more specifically, Gospel encouragement. We see it in verse one, in verse two, and again in verse twelve. The Greek word is the same in all three verses. Encouragement is prominent throughout the New Testament. It has been said, "encouragement is like oxygen in the life of a church. It keeps hearts beating, minds clear, and hands inspired to serve." Because encouragement is so important to the church, God doesn't merely recommend it; he explicitly commands it (1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11; Heb. 3:13, 10:24-25).

Our hearts are fickle and prone to wander; our enemy never sleeps, and the influences of this world constantly pull at our hearts. Knowing the reality of this spiritual war and knowing how badly believers need to be encouraged in their walk with Christ, Paul makes several trips to build up the believers. Encouragement was a priority in Paul's ministry. It needs to be a priority for us.

It's a great privilege to give Christ-exalting encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ. It's a great blessing to receive it from others! Let's look at how we can both give and receive Gospel encouragement.

In this chaotic world, we need encouragement. (20:1)

In our normal daily walk, we need encouragement. (20:2)

In our corporate times of worship, we receive and give encouragement. (20: 7)

In the extraordinary works of God, we receive encouragement. (20:8-12)

In the sharing of the Lord's Supper, we receive and give encouragement. (20:11)



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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How does gospel encouragement differ from the world's definition of encouragement? What are the ill effects from bringing the world's version into the life of the Body?

In what ways must we grow as individuals in order to be equipped and ready to offer gospel encouragement? Are you currently walking in this way?

Can you recall and share about times in your life when you received true gospel encouragement?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

336.599.1982
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

September 16 - GriefShare Support Group
September 17 - Celebrate Recovery Group
Depression/Anxiety Group
September 18 - Church Conference
September 20 - Relay for Life @ PHS
September 27 - Person @ Morehead High
September 27 & 28 - Fall Mom 2 Mom Sale

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