

“EXHORT ... AND SO MUCH THE MORE”

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

INTRODUCTION - (text) “Let us **hold fast** the confession (“profession”) of our hope (“faith”) without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us **consider one another** in order to stir up (“provoke”) love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling** of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another, and so much the more** as you see the Day approaching.”

“Exhorting” - beseech; admonish; urge one to pursue a course of conduct; encourage; to warn of dangers; to persuade through earnest appeal; encourage.

The obligation to “exhort” is found numerous times in the N.T.

(Acts 2:40, 11:23, 14:21-22, 27:22; 2 Corinthians 9:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 4:1; 1 Timothy 2:1, 4:13, 6:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:22; 1 Peter 5:12; Jude v3)

The text mentions 4 areas in which to “exhort”

1. “HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE”

“the confession of our hope”

Just before we were baptized, we made a statement of our faith:

(Acts 8:37) “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”

More than a confession, it is to be our “profession.”

Holding it fast is based on the promises of God.

“Hold fast” - keep a tight grip on it; don’t let loose; hug it; embrace it.

“Without wavering” - allow nothing to take you away from it. Stand fast.

2. “CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER”

“Consider one another” - don’t keep it to yourself, and don’t live it in isolation; others.

“in order to stir up” - to stimulate; to excite to action; fire-up; exhort.

“love and good works” - lead the way and encourage others to do the same.

3. “NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER”

“The assembling” - a reference to “ourselves together” on the Lord’s day.

“Not forsaking” - do not miss on purpose, deliberately, willfully, or habitually.

“As is the manner of some” - don’t be numbered among the “some.”

“Mind your manners” when it comes time to assemble.

4. “AND SO MUCH THE MORE” - obligation to exhort often!

Some things need to be said over and over again; repeated; to be reminded.

(Acts 20:31) “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years

I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

You have heard the phrase: “Heed the warning”