

“Admonish One Another”
(Romans 15:14-16)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, Paul reminded us of our hope.
 - a. Christ sacrificed Himself to open a door of hope to Jews and Gentiles.
 - b. But we must believe in Christ, receive Him, rest in Him, trust Him to save us.
 - c. But of course, we may only do this through the Spirit.

2. But if by His grace we have believed, there are two things that are ours:
 - a. Fullness of joy: the joy of knowing heaven is ours; the joy of the Spirit.
 - b. Fullness of peace: peace with God; peace in our souls, knowing our sins are forgiven.
 - c. Both of these come from our hope/Christ.
 - d. Both of these also strengthen our hope.

B. Preview.

1. This week, Paul shows us how to increase our hope.
 - a. Paul prayed that they might know these things.
 - b. But prayer is only the beginning.
 - (i) Sometimes there is an immediate answer in our hearts: an increase of hope, joy, peace.
 - (ii) Most often, it seems, God brings it through circumstances: He brings situations that draw or compel us to seek Him and His will, which brings an increase of these graces.

2. This morning, Paul adds the means of admonition to strengthen that hope.
 - a. Admonition is instruction, teaching, warning.
 - b. It is teaching with a serious element, a personal element, with bite.
 - c. All of us are apt to fall into sin: some sin, big or little.
 - d. All of us struggle against sin: some many, some few.
 - e. The more we do, the more our hope, joy and peace is weakened.
 - f. Which is why admonition – a stern warning, instruction with bite – can get us back into the path where our hope, and consequently, joy and peace is strengthened.
 - g. We’ll look at three things:
 - (i) First, what the qualifications are to admonish someone else.
 - (ii) Second, that we are to admonish one another as well as be admonished by those in authority over us.
 - (iii) Third, that the goal of our admonition must be sanctification – an increase of holiness/love, and consequently of hope, joy and peace.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, what are the qualities God requires in those who admonish His people?
 “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another” (v. 14).
1. Paul believed the Romans were equipped to admonish one another.
 - a. They were “full of goodness.”
 - (i) They were good, morally upright.
 - (ii) Not absolutely, but essentially.
 - (iii) They had the Spirit of God in their hearts: the new nature.
 - (iv) He was working His nature in them.
 - (v) They were dealing with their own faults and sins.
 - b. They were “filled with all knowledge.”
 - (i) They knew God’s Word, His will.
 - (ii) More than that, they had a saving knowledge of it.
 - (iii) They saw that what it required was *good* and *holy*.
 - c. They were “able also to admonish one another.”
 - (i) Able to warn of sin.
 - (ii) Able to instruct in righteousness.
 2. Paul doesn’t necessarily tie these things together, but they are tied together.
 Who is the one qualified to admonish others?
 - a. He must be full of goodness.
 - (i) Have the Spirit of God.
 - (ii) Making progress in sanctification, in love, especially gentleness (1 Cor. 4:21; Gal. 6:1).
 - (iii) Dealing with own sin: removing the log before dealing with the speck (Luke 6:41-42).
 - b. He must be full of knowledge.
 - (i) He must know the will of God; His Word; His Law.
 - (ii) He must have a saving understanding of these things: which brings the ability to apply it in an edifying way, not a legal or destructive way.
 - c. Goodness and knowledge are required; if we have these, we are qualified.
- B. Second, we are to admonish one another, as well as be admonished by those whom the Lord has put in that position.
1. Paul wrote to admonish them. “But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again” (v. 15).
 - a. He was forthright/bold: boldness is required, sheepishness won’t work.
 - b. He purpose was to cause them to remember what they already knew.
 - (i) To hear something the first time is ordinary teaching.
 - (ii) To be reminded of it when we forget or forget to take it seriously, is admonition.

- (a) We often forget, even things of great importance.
 - (b) Therefore, we often need to be reminded.
- c. The reason for his boldness and desire to remind them was the importance of his subject:
- (i) Matters of eternal consequence.
 - (ii) Consider the topics he's covered:
 - (a) God's wrath: it's being poured out every day (1).
 - (b) The Law: it can't save you because you can't keep it (2).
 - (c) Punishment: we've all sinned; we all deserve death (3).
 - (d) Justification: but we can be saved by Christ: by grace, through faith, apart from having to earn it ourselves (4).
 - (e) Reconciliation: we all fell in Adam, but if we come to God through Christ, we can have peace with God (5).
 - (f) Sanctification: it must be in our lives; it will be in our lives (6-8).
 - (g) Adoption: if we're justified, God has brought us into His family (8).
 - (h) Glorification: though we struggle, God will bring us to heaven (8).
 - (i) Election: this is all because of God's electing love (9).
 - (j) Evangelization: the elect won't come unless they hear the Gospel; we wouldn't be saved without it (10).
 - (k) Mercy: God planned to have mercy on Gentiles as well as Jews (11).
 - (l) Consecration: God wants us to live in a way consistent with what we are (12-15).
 - (m) We can't afford to be wrong on these things.
 - (n) Paul reminds them, but also all believers through the centuries.
2. Paul didn't want to interfere with their local government, but wanted to be faithful to his calling. "Because of the grace that was given me from God, to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles" (vv. 15-16).
- a. He was called and authorized by God to do this.
 - (i) This was God's grace given to him.
 - (ii) His calling was specifically to the Gentiles: we've seen there were both Jews and Gentiles present; certainly, he also had the right to admonish Jews.
 - b. On a smaller scale, we also have that privilege and obligation.
 - (i) This is the kind of teaching all of us are commanded to do.
 - (ii) "Live in peace with one another. And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men" (1 Thes. 5:13-14).
 - (iii) "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).
 - (iv) Ex.: Apollos was instructed by Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:25-26).

- (v) The work is too great and varied for any one man. We must all do it if it is to be done.
 - c. God has also authorized His ministers to do the same: “I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction” (2 Tim. 4:1-2).
 - d. We need to be qualified; we are charged with this duty.
- C. Lastly, the goal behind all admonition should be to prepare others to stand before God – their sanctification – an increase of holiness/love, and consequently of hope, joy and peace. “Ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that *my* offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (v. 16).
1. Paul’s goal was to minister the Gospel of Christ to the Gentiles, to be a priest who stands between God and man to reconcile man to God.
 - a. The Gospel would make them acceptable to God through Christ’s righteousness and atoning death.
 - b. The Gospel would provide the Spirit who would clean up their lives.
 - c. The Gospel would provide the standard by which they are to live.
 - d. Through these things they would be ready to meet God on that great day.
 - e. Through this, they would also know they were ready: the evidence of a sanctified life.
 - f. They would have the hope of heaven.
 2. This should be our goal in our admonition as well.
 - a. If there are unconverted among us, we must admonish them to run to Christ.
 - b. When we see a brother or sister in sin, we should admonish them to turn.
 - c. We should admonish one another to be faithful to the Lord.
 - d. We should receive admonition from God’s Word as it is preached from week to week.
 - e. And we should pray for one another that God’s Spirit would work in our hearts.
 - f. These things will work for our good: to increase our hope of heaven, and through this our joy and peace.
 - g. But again, if we’re not qualified to do this, we need to seek to be so:
 - (i) We must seek more of the influence of God’s Spirit:
 - (a) To deal with our own sin.
 - (b) And to fill our hearts with love and a desire to do good to our brethren.
 - (ii) We must study God’s Word more to know His will: to know how we all should live for God’s glory.
 - (iii) These things will equip us to do the Lord’s work faithfully and help our brethren have a full assurance of faith to the end, and consequently, they will increase our hope. May the Lord help us to seek these things. Amen.