

July 13, 2017

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren ... comfort the feebleminded ...

The feebleminded falls into two groups, the worried and the wearisome. The worried are not on the edge, but huddled in the middle. Paul says about them, "Encourage the fainthearted." That's a very interesting term, also used only here. It's the term *oligopsuchos* from two Greek words soul and small. The small souled.

Those who are worried hate change. They want to do it always the same way. They fear the unknown. They worry about everything. Bless them. As William Hardy said, "they see the manure pile in every meadow." They lack courage. They don't want to dare to do anything that hasn't been done. They love what is safe. They only want to walk in a path that somebody has paved. They only want to repeat an act that somebody has done. They want a risk-free life with absolute security. They're usually melancholy. They lack the strength to move out with the church and take challenges, strike out in new ministries. They fear persecution, don't like to communicate Christ. They're afraid of opposition, usually sad, all the time worried, very often depressed, in despair, discouraged.

For contrast the opposite word, *megalopsychos* means the large soul. It refers to the person of courage, the person of boldness, the person who will put his life on the line for the noble cause, who loves the challenge, who loves the battle because he tastes the victory, the one who is fearless in the face of difficulty, the one who is not afraid of persecution, the one who has a vision and who achieves great things because he sees every opportunity that is before him.

The worried are afraid of persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12; Rev. 2:10 (External persecution/The World); John 15:20; 16:2 (Internal persecution /Professors of salvation)
Have an inability to rise above problems. Matt. 8:25-27; Mark 4:39-41
Positions the issues of life as more than one can bear.
Lacks vision. 2 Peter 1:9 (1-10)

Tender encouragement 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

This can include the encouragement of personal fellowship. Matt 18:19-20; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:4, 14; 2:1; 4:31; 16:13; 20:7

The encouragement of prayer to the God of all encouragement Joshua 1:1-9

The encourage of gospel hope Colossians 1:5, 23-29

The encouragement of a secure salvation Jude 20-25

The encouragement of God as a sovereign God with purpose and providence to affect his will. Philippians 4:19

The encouragement of the love of Christ. Romans 8:35-39; Galatians 2:20; Eph. 3:19

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The encouragement of the final resurrection. Revelations 20:5-6

Reminder note from lesson: *"Milk to Strong Meat rev.2"*

C. Order of the Resurrection:

"But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 1Corinthians 15:23

24 Then cometh the end..."

Everyone will not be resurrected at the same moment. There is a definite order that takes place as to respect of time.

1. The First Resurrection: This is the resurrection of those who are in the Kingdom of God and who shall reign with Christ during the millennium (Rev. 20:5-6). They shall not appear before the White Throne Judgment. Three distinct phases to this resurrection:

- a. First-fruits..... Christ
- b. Harvest..... At the Rapture of the Church
- c. Gleanings..... The Tribulation Saints

2. The Second Resurrection: This is the resurrection of those who are not in the Kingdom of God. They shall appear before the White Throne Judgment and be judged according to whether or not their names are in the book of life (Rev. 20:11-13)

The encouragement of sharing the sufferings of Christ. 2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 11:25; James 5:10-16; 1Peter 2:19-21: 3:12-14: 4:12-16; 5:10.

The wearisome are exasperating people. These are those who will not move. They are trained, but they don't do what they have been trained to do. They are taught, but they don't live how they have been taught to live. You can hear it in the voice of Jesus when He says, "Oh, you of little faith." I mean when are you going to get this?

To combat this in the church God says, be patient. "How patient?" As patient as God is with you.

A look at the patience of God. (Exodus 34:6; Isaiah 63:7- 9)

Matt 18:21-35

Peter said, "Lord, how patient? Seven times?" Lord said, "No. 70 times seven." That patient? They keep doing the same thing. That patient? Come alongside those people who exasperate you and be patient.

The worried need encouraging and the wearisome need patience. We must deal with each other in compassion, personal love, personal care. That the church grows and purges itself.