



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

Acts 19:21-41 ESV

Paul in Macedonia and Greece

20 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Eutychus Raised from the Dead

⁷On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” ¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

[READ THE TEXT]



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”
People – “Thanks be to God.”

[PRAY]

[ILLUSTRATION]

“Win One for the Gipper”¹

ROCKNE: Well, boys ... I haven't a thing to say. Played a great game...all of you. Great game.

(He tries to smile.) I guess we just can't expect to win 'em all. (Rockne pauses and says quietly). I'm going to tell you something I've kept to myself for years - None of you ever knew George Gipp. It was long before your time. But you know what a tradition he is at Notre Dame...

(There is gentle, faraway look in his eyes as he recalls the boy's words). And the last thing he said to me -- "Rock," he said - "sometime, when the team is up against it -- and the breaks are beating the boys -- tell them to go out there with all they got and win just one for the Gipper...

(Knut Rockne's eyes become misty and his voice is unsteady as he finishes). I don't know where I'll be then, Rock", he said - "but I'll know about it - and I'll be happy."

There is a hushed stillness as Rockne and the crowd of boys look at each other. In the midst of this tense silence, Rockne quietly says "Alright," to the men beside him, and his chair is wheeled slowly out of the dressing room.

PLAYER # 12: Well, what are we waiting for?

With a single roar, the players throw off their blankets and rush through the doorway.

[ILLUSTRATION]

¹Knut Rockne gave his "Win One for the Gipper" speech to the Notre Dame players at halftime of the 1928 Army game. Rockne was trying to salvage something from his worst season as a coach at Notre Dame. To inspire the players he told them the story of the tragic death of the greatest player ever at ND, George Gipp. Although historians believe that it is doubtful that Rockne's version of Gipp's last words was true, Notre Dame did win the game against Army.

<https://archives.nd.edu/research/texts/rocknespeech.htm>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

[INTRODUCTION]

[MP]

Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest.

Famous Newspaper Columnist, George Matthew Adams, who wrote during the tumultuous times of two World Wars and the Great Depression once said,²
“Encouragement is oxygen to the soul. Good work can never be expected from a worker without encouragement. No one ever climbed spiritual heights without it. No one ever lived without it.”

-George Matthew Adams

In light of that Mr. Adams and Coach Rockne were saying I thought about it, and what to state some truths here at the beginning of our time together, so you can see the importance of Encouragement.

- ***Encouragement doesn’t always guarantee a win, but no one ever won without it.***
- ***Encouragement doesn’t guarantee the thrill of victory, but it will help endure the agony of defeat.***
- ***Encouragement doesn’t guarantee that a sacrifice won’t be required for triumph, but it eases the pain when it comes due.***

I watched a few videos this week, mostly of Gen Zers (12-27 those born from 1997-2012). Mostly women who were complaining not over bosses, not over having to work hard, but that they couldn’t live on the 40 hours they received from their employers. Like you I agree on certain things: 1st by looking at their ways of living they overspend and live way out of their means, 2nd their desire for materialistic things goes way beyond what we had, but then we weren’t privy to as much as they are, and 3rd they have a mind set that in order to live in society they must spend a larger amount to live a fulfilled life. But I also want you to remember that they have been lied to much more than we ever were.

² <https://quotefancy.com/quote/1060203/George-Matthew-Adams-Encouragement-is-oxygen-to-the-soul-Good-work-can-never-be-expected>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

We have young ladies that were told they could be happy and fulfilled by voting a certain way (pro-choice, pro-alternate lifestyles), they were told happiness is not in monogamy and marriage, and they were told the nuclear family structure is not to be desired for it is a sign of weakness. Currently our Gen Z ladies are suffering, so instead of saying things like “*suck it up buttercup*”, what if we as a church stopped complaining about their complaining and do the harder but necessary work of encouragement. I wonder do you think we could win some of them back from the world?

You see the church is built by God, through the lives of those that have been disenfranchised by the world. The church is filled with, and better for it, by people who literally went through hell before getting here, and they have a lot to offer in way of encouragement to others. They saw the light, but in their stories, there were people along the way that encouraged them, and that Gospel good news got them to the end of their rebellion, it got them through the realization they are a sinner in need of God, and it helped them to accept the sacrifice of Christ so they don't fall into works based theology. **Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest and to walk the Narrow Path of Salvation is the hardest contest of all!**

Paul knows this so well...

After the success at Ephesus, he spends almost a year in travel time doing 1 thing, **encouragement**. From the summer of AD54 to the summer of AD55 instead of making a b-line back to Jerusalem with an offering for a hurting church, he determines that the better strategy is to ensure that the troops are encouraged. It won't matter how fast he can get back with money to the church in Palestine, if they can't hold the lines on the frontier. It had been 5 years since his time in Corinth, establishing the church in the capital of Achaia (Greece), and being their most forward position, Paul had to make sure they were focused and felt good about their assignments.

We know this is the focus of Paul's trip for the way that Luke highlights the word encouragement in the text. In v.1 & 2 at the beginning of his travels we see the word *parakaleó* (par-ak-al-eh'-o / παρακαλέω): *to call to or for, to exhort, to*



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

encourage.³ Luke gives the statement to show what Paul did as he went through the different regions, culminating in v.12 as Paul left his last assignment with people feeling encouraged (*and they were not a little comforted*) through his exhortations. So just as it was in v.10 and v.20 of chapter 19, the **PREACHING of Word of the Lord** is what changed the town of Ephesus, and now it seems the **PROCLAMATION of the Word** is what will be given, to keep them going. Paul’s encouragement was to keep preaching the Gospel to the church, and that should really be the focus of every church and every sermon, is to proclaim the good news of the New Kingdom brought to us by Christ and exhort how this good news now sends us out into the world!

Now one more thing before we jump into the meat of the text, this is not just the job of the pastor or the preacher.

Hebrews 3:12-13 ESV

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But **exhort** one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Guess what word is used there in v.13 for exhort? Yep, it is the word for encouragement in the Greek, the word, parakaleó (par-ak-al-eh'-o /παρακαλέω). I am glad they use the word **exhort** for it tells the reader how it is that we are to encourage one another. The author of Hebrews saw it as a personal endeavor by which the people would visit one another, using the words of their own mouth, to influence and bolster faith, to keep people from falling away from God. WOW! The words of church members are one of the ways that God perseveres the faith of His people, we are the deliverers of HOPE! Now we are beginning to see why **Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest.**

At the height of WW2 Franklin D. Roosevelt enlisted several Christian and non-Christian groups to form the United Service Organization (USO) nearly 1.5 million Americans volunteered for this service (not counting the European and Canadian Versions of the same thing). At the height of the USO in 1944,

³ <https://biblehub.com/greek/3870.htm>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

over 3,000 clubs, were running 700 shows a day.⁴ Encouragement is what kept the boys going and it made their wounds easier to bear. Family encouragement, we are told by the author of Hebrews, is what gets us all to the end so we may see victory in the face of Jesus upon His glorious return, and everyone has a part and a job to do in ensuring that!

Encouragement is a major part of the Christian life, and if you and I were to take the concept of Encouragement and practice it for the rest of our lives with one another, that would be time well spent! The text today is going to teach us three different aspects of encouragement, first we will see Paul’s commitment to **GIVE encouragement**, and the reason that’s important is because it doesn’t come naturally, you must be committed to it in order for it to take place. Next, we will look at the commitment to **SPEAK encouragement**, no matter what happens around us, don’t stop. Then lastly, we will look at the **NECESSITY to EXPERIENCE encouragement**, because to give it you must be committed to receiving it, and I think you may be surprised how committed you are to that.

1. A Commitment to Give Encouragement.

20 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after **encouraging** them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much **encouragement**, he came to Greece.

There is so much going on in these first few verses that we need to take a moment and break down what is taking place.⁵

After the riot in Ephesus, that’s the uproar you see in v.1, Paul sent for the disciples, it doesn’t mean necessarily the 12 he started with, but Luke is rather particular when he chooses a word, so I think it is. He starts with these guys and he’s going to leave them in charge after a 3-year successful stint in Ephesus. Now, while it’s a nice jester I don’t see why it is necessary to encourage these men. I mean that’s where I need help, I don’t know about you,

⁴ https://wargaming.com/en/news/entertaining_allied_troops/

⁵ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Paul-third-missionary-journey.html>



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

but if I had been living with these guys for 3 years and we just got done seeing the take down of the occult in Asia through miracles, I am not thinking about, *oh yeah, I need to make sure to encourage these guys for while I am gone.* You see it doesn't come naturally to do that for people you associate with, because you figure, hey if they have a need something or have a concern, they will let me know.

But you see, **Encouragement is not necessarily to address the current concerns of the day, it is to prepare for our tomorrows.** That's one thing every parent gets in this room, our #1 job for our children is to prepare them for the world when we are no longer there, that's encouragement. That's why you exhort them and teach them, to prepare for what's coming. Paul knew that, and it was definitely one of the most important duties he had. But you see we miss a lot of opportunities to encourage people, like your kids, if we are always trying to get what we want in your home. Our job Christian is to encourage the troops, to exhort the Gospel, to talk about what Jesus has accomplished in our lives, but we have got to be dedicated, fixed upon, and ready in our heads to do it or we will miss the opportunity.

Then in v.2 we see his intent for the next year, he's about to embark on his own USO tour. Paul's focus was not to collect the funds, it was to encourage, to collect an offering was just giving him the reason to show up. I wonder if it was also the way to determine who was really in **the Way**, the ones that wanted to be a part of this new movement in Christ.

Just that you know where his head is at, he would first proceed to Troas, that's north of Ephesus, and it would be the port that would send him out across the Mediterranean to Macedonia. While in Troas we know he is waiting for Titus, who had taken his second letter to the Corinthians (the one we don't have) after many in that church, which he loved dearly, were rebelling against his apostolic authority. He leaves Troas and heads to Philippi in Macedonia, when Titus finally catches up with him there, and lets him know that Paul's letter was well received!

My other point here is even when he is in distress, even when he's losing sleep over the church at Corinth, he is continuing with his tour of encouragement!



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

The need of encouraging each other is not something we can negate to do, even when our hearts may not be in it.

2 Corinthians 7:5-9 ESV

⁵For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. ⁶But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. ⁸For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. ⁹As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

What a sign of a man committed to the Lord Jesus, just because you are having a rough day, or having a long night of the soul, the troops still need the reassuring of the Gospel from their leaders. I also know like Paul, nothing brings joy to a man like the proclamation and the exhortation of the Gospel, breathing out the words of life gives strength even to the weakest knees!

Family, when you don't feel like doing devotions with your family or when you don't want to talk about God that is EXACTLY the time, you're supposed to do it, for that will fill you up! Paul sets out then for his last trip to Corinth, for we don't ever hear of him going back through there again. Except now he is going **full of Zeal**, for they have repented, they have turned, and Paul sees the Gospel of God at work, through the harsh but necessary rebuking in his letter.

Then after a joyful reunion in Corinth, while there, he writes his letter to the Romans. And you will never guess why he wrote it!

Romans 1:11-12 ESV

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to **strengthen you**— that is, that we may be mutually **encouraged** by each other's faith, both yours and mine.”

We can see that in the middle of his USO tour not only does he intend to encourage those he has helped birth spiritually, but those he has not even met



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

yet! Yet again he is not at peace while writing this letter. Paul’s most influential letter, Romans, that he ever wrote came from an attitude that was committed to **encouragement**. Just think about the ministry we are missing out on and the things we can achieve through Christ, if at first, we get it into our hearts that this is exactly what we should be doing!

Now, things weren’t all peachy while he was in Corinth.

³There (Corinth) he spent three months, and when a **plot was made against him by the Jews** as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶but **we** sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days **we** came to them at Troas, where **we** stayed for seven days.

Paul was writing Romans, when he became aware of a league of assassins out to get him. So of course he hires some bodyguards right, nope! He sends them on ahead for they most likely have all the cash they collected. He then stays off the boats a little while longer, bad place to get caught on a boat with people that want you dead. Now we all would think, ok Paul time to make a b-line to Jerusalem, but Paul received more hope in the presence of Luke, did you all notice when he showed up there in v.6? And instead, they observed Passover, very special day for 1st century Christians, and THEN they sailed back to Troas, but instead of hurrying up to catchup with the others they stay the week.

Ok so before we move on, we saw the importance of being committed to the giving of encouragement, because it focuses on our **tomorrows**, it **uplifts your hearts**, and it **accomplishes more** than what we think it is possible, for God’s Word, when exhorted, never returns void ([Is.55:11](#)). **Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest**, so we have to be committed to giving it, and next we need to stay committed to speaking it, we can’t even stop for emergencies?!

2. The Commitment to Speak Encouragement.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

⁷On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul **talked with them**, intending to depart on the next day, and **he prolonged** his speech until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as **Paul talked still longer**. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

Ok one of those great stories here where pastors always like to use to teach their people why they shouldn't fall asleep in service. I know some people look at this text and think *uhhuh! This is why you don't preach long sermons PJ*, and I would say fooled ya, most of you didn't even notice when for the last three weeks our sermons were over the hour mark did you? Why, because even when it comes to personal safety **the preaching of God's Word is more important than anything else!** But don't think I am non-empathetic-egomaniac I get it, this poor kid died, well what happened?

Well, it happened on the first day of the week, it was Sunday, and Christians didn't meet until after the workday. This is where you discover that the Christians started observing their Sundays as the Lord's Day, the Sabbath Day, for it symbolized working out of the rest that Jesus provided from His death and resurrection. You can picture it, it's their Monday, and they are tired but it's Paul, and he wants to give a word of encouragement, well you stay! So, they most likely had a little food, it's warm being the upper room, the heat has traveled upstairs, the torches are lit for light, and this poor kid, who being a young man is a day worker, he's sitting in the window trying to get the fresh air to keep him up. Paul, feeling the conviction to encourage just keeps going, till finally the kid plops out the window and died! Ok so memo for us, we are never putting in windows because I love you all too much to hurt yourself when I preach, that's why we meet in this basement! :)

¹⁰But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

Ok Paul at least takes a break and goes down to see the kid, and he does like an Elijah, Elisha ([1 Kings 17:21](#); [2 Kings 4:34-35](#)) like thing and throws his body over the young man and brings him back to life! Then what happens, he finally stops? NO! They all eat to get their strength up, and he talked all the way to the morning, just in time to go to work. Then they took Eutychus, which btw means *lucky*, back home feeling VERY ENCOURAGED. Not only did they get a whole night of preaching, but they saw God raise the dead, happening on the day they celebrated Jesus' resurrection! Now that is a day to remember! But none of this happens without the commitment to speaking encouragement, for Paul would have perhaps missed his greatest teaching analogy he ever got from God, if he would have stopped. **You see, even in times of emergency, bewilderment, and angst the best thing the church can do is to keep preaching!** What the people needed more than their sleep, more than their concerns over Eutychus being addressed, they needed to hear how Jesus was a conqueror over death, for persecution was coming for them too!

Remember according to Hebrews 12 we all have a responsibility to keep speaking the Truth to each other, in Love, that life is worth it, suffering is worth it, hardship is worth it, because JESUS IS WORTH IT! We need to hear from each other and see it for ourselves through our church family why we should keep enduring.

[CHALLENGE]

I want to give you some application here, even before we get to our last point, and I want to ask you to prayerfully consider doing these things for one another:

- **Focus on giving encouragement to others, even when you haven't gotten any.**
- **Focus on the need to visit others, even when it is draining to you.**
- **Focus on serving with others, even when your schedule is full.**

In your CGs today, in case this part is too hard to think about how you could be doing this better, I have for you 10 ways and things you can stop doing, things



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

that may be keeping you from encouraging others, and when you go through that list come back to this one and tell each other if this is possible.

Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest and we do need to commit to giving and speaking it, but it will be very hard unless you receive it in the right way.

3. The Necessity to Experience Encouragement.

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had **decided to sail past Ephesus**, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Paul still had people to love, but that will come later. Paul is undoubtedly feeling a little drained and you can almost sense that the closer he is getting to going to Jerusalem the more he is looking forward to it. You see Paul had his own commitment to **receive encouragement** as much as he had to give it and speak it. He was trying to get to Jerusalem for **Pentecost, it's the b-day of the first century church (Homecoming Sunday)**. It is the day that the HS came down, Peter preached a message of repentance, thousands were saved, and the gifts of tongues was displayed showing where the Gospel was about to go! Pentecost, the first one, Paul didn't experience it for he was a Pharisee still at that time.

He persecuted the church, he had people imprisoned and murdered from the church, and yet the church had loved him when he was blind, when he needed to heal physically and spiritually, when the Gospel was working in his life they encouraged Him! Now he could go and experience the gathering of the saints on the Lord's Day, what had become the tradition of the early church! he could hear someone preach to him God's Word, maybe it would be Peter, John, or even Jesus' brother James! He would be able to partake of communion with the other saints, remembering his Lord, strengthened by the ordinances, and



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

just have this very surreal moment, for his life. He would experience the Lord’s Day as a conquered man, who had been given a new lease on life, and the people would welcome him, embrace him, kiss him and exhort him, and he would be filled up to go back out again!

You see family here’s the truth you need to receive today, **You cannot commit to giving encouragement if you don’t first embrace your need to receive it.**

Let me tell you family why remembering the Lord’s Day and to keep it Holy is such an important practice that you need to develop, that you need to cherish, and you may even need to stop letting other things get in the way.

Hebrews 12:18-24 ESV

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

You see on the Lord’s Day when the saints gather, we gather in power, to be empowered, by the almighty powerful Word of the Lord Jesus, and if you are not committed to being here and experiencing it as much as you can you negate much of the ability to be encouraged and you definitely weaken your ability to give encouragement, which I remind you is your calling.

[CHALLENGE]



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

Why is it so important to remember the Lord’s Day, to receive encouragement.

- ***We gather on the Lord’s Day together to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and victories!***
 - We like the early church practice a 2,000-year tradition, to display to the world and to each other the reality of Jesus’ life. We come together as a people, we who were not a people, for the Lord has made us family, and every week we are encouraged by the practice of communal living around Jesus’ life, may we always desire it!
- ***We gather on the Lord’s Day together to experience the Lord’s Supper!***
 - Privilege, Pattern, Proclamation⁶ we display so much through the Lord’s Supper until He returns, may we never tire of it!
- ***We gather to hear the Word of the Lord!***
 - I don’t have to go on about this, just see the last two weeks sermons, may we never lack for it!

Family, going to church on a Sunday is not something you have to do it is something you get to do, to receive encouragement in order to give it.

Encouragement has always been the most important part of any hard-fought contest so let us commit to giving it, too speaking it and experiencing it until His return.

[PRAYER]

[CALL TO OBEY]

Elder – Church, we have heard the word of God today, now our job is to obey the word and to lose ourselves in the work.

In Philippians 2:1-4 Paul calls the church to this - "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same

⁶ Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition/Exalting Jesus in ACTS, (Nashville, TN., Holman Reference) Pgs. 305, 307, & 308.



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

[COMMUNION]

Pastor Jody explains The Bread and the Wine
Followed by Family prayer over the Bread and the Wine – led by heads of households.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – “Christians, what do you believe?”

Congregation - LBCF 1689 Chapter 16 sections 1 and 2 - of Good Works

"The only good works are works commanded by God in the Bible. They do not include works that are not commanded by the Bible, such as those done by humans out of blind zeal or with the appearance of good intentions.

These good works, which are done in obedience to God's commandments, are fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith. By them:

believers express their thankfulness

strengthen their assurance

edify fellow believers

profess the gospel

answer people who are against the faith

and glorify God

Believers are God's workmanship and created in Christ Jesus for good works.

These good works bear fruit that lead to holiness, and the result of this is eternal life."

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]



Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 69 “Losing Yourself in Your Work”
By Pastor Jody May 03/03/2024

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has given us the Gospel so that we may be encouraged discovering weekly how God is Saving us.

Go in the name of the Son, that Has given us His life for atonement for sin, that we may be encouraged weekly through the act of the Lord’s Supper.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that puts in our hearts new affections for God, encouraging us to strive for the sake of the Gospel and the fame of Jesus.