



REDEEMING HOPE

Encouragements from Abroad II

October - November, 2021

Series Overview

"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me..." (Philippians 4:10 ESV)

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35 ESV)

In the world around us, individualism and self-sufficiency are proclaimed as virtues of those who are successful, accomplished, and worthy of acclaim. We all long to be the lone warrior, skilled and put-together to accomplish the task or serve the mission at hand.

However, when we look at the story of God throughout the Scriptures, we see that the biblical narrative consistently rejects the "lone warrior" in favor of something much greater. God created Adam in the Garden with the need for a partner, He called Abraham to create a new people of God that numbered in the millions, Jesus invited a team of disciples to follow Him and be sent out together, and we see the Church launched out of a group of Jesus-followers who were praying together.

God has created us to be dependent on Him and on others, using people partnering together within community to accomplish His work in the world. This means that we were not created to be alone, work alone, or labor alone. In fact, the Holy Spirit speaks through His people to encourage us and to make Himself known.

This dependence on others inspires a humble self-awareness that God is actually the one who accomplishes His mission, through His people, and in His timing. And this also tells us that no singular church community is skilled or successful enough to carry the full expression of the Kingdom of God into the world, but all churches together are facets of Jesus' Church.

And since the foundation of the Church two millennia ago, Christians have partnered together for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus' Kingdom and the encouragement of the saints. Knowing and celebrating these partnerships points us to the sufficiency of Christ and a grace-filled humility that we cannot be where we are without the Holy Spirit's work, which often comes through followers of Jesus sharing in ministry together.

Thus there are no "lone churches", but rather every church stands on the foundation of Christ working through people, places, and other churches for the past 2,000 years of church history. And as a new church, we want to highlight and celebrate the friends and partners who have helped us form in Clarksville, TN by hearing words of encouragement in this series: Encouragements from Abroad.

Specific Background for Series

We are reinvigorating a sermon series we went through in January-February, 2021. Planting a church is difficult and requires a lot of external support and encouragement to last. We take intentional times throughout the year to be encouraged by other Christians and ministry leaders who are invested through friendship or partnership with Redeeming Hope. The background of this is to broaden the view of the people in Redeeming Hope to see how many other people from different states, backgrounds, and affiliations are invested and contribute to our successes and bear our burdens with us.

Occasion, Purpose, and Message

OCCASION *[What prompted the reintroduction of this series?]*

At the end of 2021, we are encouraged by the growth God has given us and excited to return to weekly, in-person gatherings in 2022. This will be one of the last opportunities for those who have invested into Redeeming Hope to preach remotely without having to travel to Clarksville, which is why we want to maximize this time being online only.

PURPOSE *[What does this series hope to accomplish? What is the expected outcome?]*

There are four key expected outcomes/goals for Encouragements from Abroad:

1. Those in our church family know they are loved, prayed for, and supported by godly leaders outside of Clarksville
(corporate encouragement that we are not alone)
2. Those in our church family know their pastor is not a "lone ranger", but is in community with other peers and mentors.
(relational encouragement/trust-building that our pastor is not alone but known)
3. Those who watch know that other pastors and ministry leaders are invested and contribute to RH's success.
(humility that any "success" is not attributed to our efforts, but Gods working and using others in partnership)
4. Those who don't yet know Jesus observe how common church planting and cross-church partnership is.
(clarity that what we are doing is normal and common and that the Church can be unified and filled with love)

Key Words, Themes, and Theological Concepts

Key Words: Encouragement, Friendship, Partnership

Themes: Partnership for the Gospel, Encouragement of the saints

Theological Concepts

- Ecclesiology: The Church is the unified Bride of Christ and partners together in local expressions to spread the Gospel
- Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit speaks God's encouragement through God's people for His own glory and our joy
- Anthropology: The healthiest ministries and relationships are when people are together in community as God intended us to be
- Identity: Our identity is not rooted in being independent or successful, but in Jesus' work for us, ordained by our Father, and communicated to us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who often uses others to speak God's encouragement and truth to our hearts.
- Grace : We are empowered for obedience by God's grace towards us

Specific Contextualization Requests

- Most of our members or listeners have no church background. Please explain in detail any theological terminology (for instance, when using the term "santification", explain that means we are being made more like Jesus over a lifetime). Assume that the people listening will not have any prior knowledge of the Bible, biblical stories or narrative, or have a prior understanding of theological terms or concepts.
- Attempt to avoid offhand references to other passages, stories or biblical characters that are not explained first (ie, "As you know in the story of David")

Specific Recording Requests

- Do not stress as much about the time, since we are online and on-demand I am trying to keep my sermons to 30min but anywhere from 20-40 is perfectly fine. You speaking from your heart is the most important.
- Please deliver a message that you feel will be encouraging to our church family. I know that a few are preaching on themes such as: "God likes you, loves you, and is delighted in you" or "God Sees you and Knows You".
- Please be centered in the middle of the video or framed well within the video frame by good backgrounds/props
- Ensure the audio quality is high and clear (no crackling, excessive background noise, etc.)
- Ensure the lighting is not reflecting off of glasses and we can clearly see your face, especially your eyes
- Have fun and know that our church family is filled with grace, lots of new believers, and those exploring faith!

Visual Images

