

“I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE!”

Lesson 1 ☐ For week ending January 3, 2015

God never intended for us to go through the struggles of this life alone. His plan is for all those who confess their faith in Him to come together as a body to strengthen and support one another. We need the ministry and gifts that have been placed in every member of the body if we expect to overcome and be all that God has called us to be. In these perilous times, we must turn to our brothers and sisters in Christ and confess, "I need you to survive!"

KEY TEXT: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

1. According to our key text, one of the issues that would be faced by the church as the return of the Lord draws near is that some would lose sight of the importance of coming together to meet with other believers to worship the Lord. Consider the great importance of assembling together as you study Ephesians 2:19-22, Matthew 18:18-20 and Acts 4:23-24.

• Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

• Matthew 18:18-20

18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

• Acts 4:23-24

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

2. It is God's design that the church meet together to preach, teach and study God's Word. A church that is not centered around the Word of God will not survive! Confirm this from II Timothy 4:2-4, Acts 2:42 and Colossians 3:16.

• II Timothy 4:2-4

2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

• **Acts 2:42**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

• **Colossians 3:16**

16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

3. Another of the key reasons that we are to assemble together is for the purpose of exhorting one another. Discuss this aspect of the use of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:7,12-13,27-31;14:13). The encouragement that we receive from one another is something we should seek for more of-not less of-as we see the day of Lord approaching.

• **I Corinthians 12:7**

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

• **I Corinthians 12:12-13**

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

13 For we were all baptized by[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

• **I Corinthians 12:27-31**

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

• **I Corinthians 14:13**

13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say.

4. It is through working together that God's church will be perfected as a Bride who has made herself ready for the Lord's return. Read Ephesians 4:7-16. Is it possible for a believer to reach perfection without the fellowship of other believers? The truth is that we need each other (I Corinthians 12:18-26).

• **Ephesians 4:7-16**

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."

9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- 14 *Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.*
- 15 *Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*
- 16 *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

• **I Corinthians 12:18-26**

- 18 *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*
- 19 *If they were all one part, where would the body be?*
- 20 *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*
- 21 *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*
- 22 *On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,*
- 23 *and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,*
- 24 *while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,*
- 25 *so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*
- 26 *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*