

Be Encouraged & Press On

PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

Life: One Thing or Another

- ▶ 2020
- ▶ Life is full of surprises; some good, some bad.
- ▶ Places to go, people to see, bills to pay.
- ▶ We're too busy...What is the hurry?
- ▶ People are unkind with no patience.
- ▶ Common sense is no longer common.
- ▶ At least 2 generations of godless children.

Discouragement & Frustration

- ▶ Family issues – Health, Death of loved one
- ▶ Personal problems - Material Loss
- ▶ Social Issues
 - ▶ Loss of Morality
 - ▶ Senseless Killing & Crime
 - ▶ Deception
- ▶ General Hopelessness

Discouragement Leads to Sin

- ▶ Unchecked discouragement leads to sin.
- ▶ Looking for answers in the wrong places. Outside of God's Word, Prayer & Fellowship (self-isolation).
- ▶ Make decisions while in a distressed frame of mind.
- ▶ Find distractions that are unhealthy (physically & spiritually).
- ▶ Allow hopelessness of others to creep into your life (Cliché: Misery loves company).
- ▶ Loss of perspective on what is really important.

Discouraged Biblical Characters

- ▶ Moses & Aaron (Exo/Num)
- ▶ Elijah (1Kgs. 19:3-18)
- ▶ David (1Sa. 30:6, Psa. 42:5, 10)
- ▶ John the Baptist (Mat. 11:2-6, Luk. 7:19-23)
 - ▶ Imprisoned
- ▶ Apostle Paul (2Ti. 1:8; 4:6-7)
 - ▶ Couldn't reach the Jews with the Gospel of Christ

BE ENCOURAGED! GOD IS WITH YOU!!

- ▶ Psa. 34:17-19 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.
- ▶ Psa. 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- ▶ Psa. 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

BE MORE ENCOURAGED!

- ▶ Isa. 40:31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
- ▶ Isa. 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- ▶ Isa. 42:16 And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

BE FOREVERMORE ENCOURAGED!

- ▶ Jer. 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- ▶ Mat. 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- ▶ Rom. 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Remember Who We Are!

We are God's chosen! Having obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the pattern that was once delivered.

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.
- ▶ Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- ▶ Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Glory to Him and Us

- ▶ **1Pe. 1:6-9** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- ▶ **Mat. 25:21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'