

“Now I Exhort You...”



Many exhortations are found written in the Bible and they are worthy of our consideration. I want to share one such exhortation with you today. Now I exhort you with the words of the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 1:10 where he addressed an issue that needed to be dealt with in the church regarding their division. The passage says:

“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (NASBU)

Today we want to examine this text and make a few observations:

-**“Now I exhort you... brethren...”**

Notice first, that Paul was writing to those that were supposed to be brethren in the Lord, Jesus Christ, but they were acting more like enemies, being divided from one another. Those who are brethren in Christ Jesus are those who are in the family of God (Rom. 8:14-17; Matt. 12:48-50).

-**“Now I exhort you...by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”**

Paul is not going to tell them something that is of his own opinion, but tells them something that is founded on the authority of Jesus, the Son of God. It is something that is very important for everyone to consider. Since Jesus' name is the name above all names and He has the name by which we must be saved, the truth associated with it should hold great authority in every part of our lives. (See Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11)

-**“Now I exhort you...that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you...”**

It is inevitable that when any group of people come together in one place, that have differences of interests and feelings, some problems are going to exist. Paul is addressing the fact that they must be willing to accept the truth of those things concerning the faith of the Lord, so that “among” them they would have the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3). The only way to have unity is to be in the Lord and continue in His word (Gal. 3:26-28; Jn. 8:31-32)

-**“Now I exhort you...that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment”**

Paul says not to be divided, and then he offers the alternative of being of the same mind and judgment. Being of the same mind and judgment requires that we understand the mind of the Lord revealed to us regarding the faith of the gospel, so that we can judge what is right and wrong accordingly. (I Cor. 2; Jude 3) While we understand that every individual will have their own personality with his or her own interests, when it comes to the church, we must all stand on the teachings recorded for our reproving, rebuking, correction or instructing in righteousness so that we can be adequate and fully equipped for every good work. (II Tim. 3:16-17).

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