

**HEBREWS 10:25(NLTSE)** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near. ("Meeting together" used only here and one other place: 2 Thessalonians 2:1. Means being gathered to Christ and does not refer to going to church)

- How much time do we have before Jesus comes back and the rapture takes place? Perhaps as little as a burning match stick.
- Most times after having a hearty meal, by the time we have dessert, we're not really hungry, but the dessert is just something special.
- The same applies to Christian fellowship. There's just something special about getting together and experiencing the Lord's presence.
- You might not necessarily be hungry or have a need, but the getting together is so very special.

**PSALM 133:1(NLTSE)** How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!

- What are we supposed to be encouraging each other with? The good news that Jesus is coming:

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18(NLTSE)** " We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words"

- Many people live trying to figure out exactly when Jesus will return, instead of just living right with God all the time
- Jesus will only come like a thief in the night for those who are not being encouraged about His return:

**2 PETER 3:10(NLTSE)** But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

- Without going into too deep a teaching, the "day of Christ" is for Christians to look forward to, the "day of the Lord" will be dread for those who've not accepted Him. ( see Philippians 2:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:2)
- The day of Christ is the rapture for Christians the day of the Lord is for those left behind.
- Let's encourage one another with the truth that Jesus will right every wrong and make all things new, like we sing in that song "Come Jesus Come"
- Barnabas was known as the "son of encouragement" (ACTS 4:36)
- What are we known for?

### CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why is encouragement becoming increasingly necessary?
2. How does the Bible say we should encourage each other?
3. In what way do you need encouragement and how can you encourage others?