

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, April 5, 2009

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today,"
so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

Hebrews 3:13

One of the things our elders have been discussing in our meetings is how we at Rockport can do a better job encouraging one another in Christ. 1 Thess 5:11 says, *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up."* How desperately we need that, especially when living in such discouraging times.

So how does one believer encourage another? From everything I have seen in Scripture and experienced in my own life it seems to me that we encourage each other best by continually drawing one another's attention back to Christ and the good news of the Gospel. You see, that's what I need. Usually the reason I get discouraged is that my mind is playing too much on myself and my sin; my failures and troubles in this world. Troubling times trouble me! And even if they didn't, all too often I find a way to trouble myself!

But when a dear friend in Christ helps me lift my eyes back off myself and my circumstances and set them back on the One who loves me and gave Himself for Me; when he or she reminds me that this One who began this good work in me will bring it to completion, and that He is right now working all things together for my good and His glory, I find that I am greatly encouraged. That fresh glimpse of Christ through the eyes of my friend lifts me out of the mud and mire and sets my feet back on that higher ground of confidence in His grace.

I saw that happen in the life of a brother this week who came to me discouraged by some things that were happening. We found ourselves talking about Jesus and His grace for sinners such as ourselves. And as we did, I saw the burden lift from his shoulders as He began to hope once more in Christ. That's a scene I long to see repeated again, and again and again.

Confident in His Grace at work in You!

Pastor Scott!

PS - I hope you'll stay to hear a full report from our elders in our special meeting today.