

Help In Time Of Need

“A generation ago most men who finished a day’s work needed rest...”

- Basic needs never change.
- But who is in need?
 1. Christians.
 - ▶ Physical: Mt.6:7-8
 - ▶ Spiritual: Hb.4:16
 2. Churches. Rv.3:17
 3. Communities. Mt.9:12

I. What Do Communities Need?

Ancient cities

- Walls, army, supplies, strong leaders

Modern cities

- Safe, sanitary, jobs, law enforcement...

God's view

- Sick world needs Great Physician
 - World sees our light – Mt.5:14-16.
 - Gn.18

Churches:

Love Bible / souls / one another

- Ph.2:14-15

I. What Do Communities Need?

**II. What Do
Christians Need?**

1. Understand God's way

- Without understanding, it's all a guess
- Close is not good enough.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so – Acts 17:11

Daily investigation;
scrutinizing

Of questions a judge
asks a prisoner.

1. Understand God's way

- Without understanding, it's all a guess
- Close is not good enough.

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food – Hb.5:12

2. Determine to stand for truth

- Ex.14:13...30, Israel.
- Hebrews 3, becoming like Israel ...

⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

2. Determining

- Ex.14:13...30, 15:1-21

- Hebrews 3, because of

⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the wilderness,

⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, and I tested them, for forty years. And saw their works forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God – 5:12

3. Have courage to resist compromise

- Compromise costs. Mt.27:24
- Courage conquers.
 - Noah, Gn.6
 - Lot, 2 Pt.2
 - Caleb, Num.13-14
 - Paul, Ac.19:30

And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.

4. Persevere

- Easy to begin well, but...
- Hb.10:36, For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise...
- Hb.12:1, Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

I. What Do Communities Need?

II. What Do Christians Need?

**III. What Do
Churches Need?**

1. Hunger and thirst for Bible

- Sermons. Lk.10:38-42, Mary . . .

Chose His feet (39)

Hung on every word (39)

Exalted word over all (40)

Spiritual priority (42)

Singular focus (41-42)

1. Hunger and thirst for Bible

- Sermons. Lk.10:38-42, Mary
- Classes. Three R's

2. Personal Evangelism

- Cannot limit our study to Bible classes on Sunday / Wednesday
- We seek others who need gospel

3. Discipline

- Parent / teacher makes threats but . . .
- Corinth already in trouble, like rowdy child

¹⁸ Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God *is not in word but in power.* ²¹ What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness? – 1 Co.4

4. Conviction

- Parents hate dangers to their children
- Churches must hate threats to souls
- Ps.119:104

²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh – Jude

4. Conviction

- Parents hate dangers to their children
- Churches must hate threats to souls

¹³ And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak – 2 Cor.4

- Cosmopolitan Corinth: sin and error abounded. 1 Co.6:...11 / 1 Co.15
- Paul's 'faith' is conviction.

5. Elders

- Not power maniacs / puppets / political aspirants, but godly servants . . .
 - Shepherds give flock what it needs

¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you – Hb.13

5. Elders

- We would not let just anyone keep our children

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock – Acts 20

- What is a flock without shepherds?