TITLE: SOME ENCOURAGING WORDS!

TEXT: Romans 12:6-8; Phil. 1:1-6; Hebr. 12:1-2

1st Peter 1:16-16

INTRODUCTION: All of us need some encouraging words from time to time. I mean, life can be pretty trying at times.

Example: Grant Taft-Football coach at Bailer University and motivational speaker.....

Once he was invited to speak at a small Church in West Texas about a 3 hour drive from his home.

It was on a Sunday during the fall just before the football season was to begin. He was busy making preparations for the upcoming season but decided it would be good for him to do it so he made the three hour drive to the little Church.

After the service a couple of the elders from the Church asked him if he would be willing to hang around and meet with the youth group later that evening. He reluctantly agreed realizing it would get him home pretty late that night and he had early morning Monday practices.

He said no one offered to take him home for dinner so he had to hang around a one horse town for several hours with nothing to do.

He spoke with the youth group later that night and when he was finished he said no one even offered to pay for his gas.

He said he left to go back home that night feeling taken advantage of and not appreciated and now it had started raining.

It rained hard all the way home and about an hour from home he has a flat tire.

As he is changing it on the dark road in the driving rain, semis would go around him at 60 mph sending torrents of water onto him.

When he gets the tire changed and is back on the road he is not just discouraged but exhausted. He sees a little roadway diner so he pulls over for something to eat and a cup of coffee.

He says it was a typical Texas diner, the waitress—tall, thin, blond hair pulled up in a bun chewing gum.

She says in typical Texas drawl—Help ya!

Grant says yes—I would like coffee, two eggs over easy, bacon, toast and some encouraging words.

The waitress comes back in a few minutes with his order and places it before him.

She puts down the bacon and eggs and toast and coffee and starts to walk away.

Grant says, wait a minute I think you forgot something! She asks what and he says “my encouraging words.

She say’s Huh? He says my encouraging words. I ordered eggs, bacon, toast and coffee and some encouraging words.

She says Ok and leans down close to his ear and whispers—don’t eat them eggs….

Mary was having a tough day and had stretched herself out on the couch to do a bit of what she thought to be well-deserved complaining and self-pitying. She moaned to her mom and brother, "Nobody loves me -- the whole world hates me!" Her brother, busily occupied playing a game, hardly looked up at her and passed on this encouraging word: "That's not true, Mary. Some people don't even know you."

What a lift!

We all come to points in our life when we get discouraged and just need to hear some words of encouragement...

This is as true for the Christian as it is for anyone else....Maybe more so because of the cross that we have been called to bear.

To bear the cross of being appointed by God to be His ambassadors here on planet earth... To be representatives of Jesus to a lost world....

There is going to be many times when each of us will need to hear some words of encouragement...

Sometimes God will place those words of encouragement within someone else to speak to us.

Some of you here this morning God has gifted with the gift of encouragement...That is one of my wives gifts....

**Roma 12:6 (NIV) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.**

**7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;**

**8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage..**

I thank God for those that He has gifted with the gift of encouragement..

But God has also placed words of encouragement for us in His Word....

And we can go there any time that we need to hear some words of encouragement.....

This morning I would like to share with you some "words of encouragement" that God has given to each of us as believers...

**Phil 1:1 (NIV) Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:**

**2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**3 I thank my God every time I remember you.**

**4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy**

**5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,**

**6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Actually, there are many words of encouragement within these verses, but this morning I want to just focus on the words of encouragement that we find in v. 6....

**6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Over the years, I can't count the number of times that the Lord has brought me to this particular verse of Scripture when I really needed to hear some encouraging words.

At those times in my walk and relationship with the Lord that I have become discouraged because I had fallen or had come to a place where I felt that, for every spiritual step forward I would take two steps backwards, the words of this verse would bring the reality of the hope that we have in Christ to my heart.....

**6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Being **confident** of this!

**peitho {pi'-tho}**

**1a) to persuade, i.e. to induce one by words to believe**

**1c) to tranquilize**

**3) to trust, have confidence, be confident**

Be confident of this! Trust in this! You can be tranquil about this!

**That he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**

The "He" here who has begun a good work within us is God. The good work that God has begun in us is our salvation.

The promise is that He who has begun the good work of salvation within us is able to bring that work on to completion. In fact, He is not just able to do it but it says that he will do it.

Church this is good news---these are encouraging words!

When we come to Christ for the forgiveness of our sin and ask Him to come into our heart to be the Lord and savior of our life, God just doesn't forgive and save us and then expect us to carry our own salvation on to completion, but He will carry the work of salvation that He has started in us on to completion.

**He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion!**

Completion= **{ep-ee-tel-eh'-o}**

**1) to bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, execute, complete**

It is God who will bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, complete the work that He started within us the day we came to Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

**Hebr 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

**2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter (kjv. finisher) of our faith**

You see, Jesus is not just the author, the originator, of our faith, our salvation, but He is also the perfector, the finisher of it.

**He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion.**

All that we have to do is allow Him to complete the work that He has already started within us.

Our salvation experience is when God begins a good work within us but our salvation experience is not the end of things. It is the beginning, the starting place.

There is a work that is to continue in us for our salvation to be become complete....

The work of sanctification!

Salvation without sanctification is not a complete work.

Sanctify= **hagiazo {hag-ee-ad'-zo}**

**2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God**

**3) to purify**

**3a) to cleanse externally**

**3b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin**

**3c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul**

When we come to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin and accept the sacrifice that He made for us and allow Him to come into our hearts and be the lord of our life, internally we become sanctified...we are freed from the guilt and condemnation of sin because God has removed it from us by forgiveness....

All of our past sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more! They are buried in the depths of the deepest sea! They are as far removed from us as east is from west!

The Blood of Christ has washed them all away!

At the moment of salvation we are squeaky clean, if you will, in the sight of God.

But if we leave it right there this is not complete salvation. It is just the place that it begins...

It is a work that God has started within us.

**He who began a good work in you is faithful to complete it!**

Our salvation experience is where Gods work of redemption starts....

A pastor friend, used a phrase one day in speaking about Christians, that Pam & I really liked.

*We are Gods Redemptive work in progress.*

The redemptive work of Christ in our life isn't collimated in our salvation experience.

That is the place when the redemptive work of Christ in our life starts.

Then He calls us on to sanctification.

Peter describes it this way....

**1Pet 1:15 (NIV) But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;**

**16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

Our sanctification becomes complete as we become holy just as He who called us is holy.

The word for holy, **Hag-ee-os** is the root of the word for sanctified, **{hag-ee-ad'-zo}.**

They both carry the same thought **...**

**To separate from profane things and dedicate to God.**

**But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; "Be holy, because I am holy."**

We are called to be holy, be separated from profane things, be separated from sin and worldliness, so that we can be dedicated more fully to God.

When we accept Christ God cleans us up on the inside, a spiritual housecleaning, if you will, but He also equips us with the tools that we need to keep our house clean.

He equips us with the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in the work that He wants to complete within us. The work of sanctification--of becoming Holy just as He is Holy--of becoming more and more like Jesus.

When we accept Christ into our lives we are cleansed and then given what we need to stay that way. To stay clean..

As Christians we often settle for a lot less then what God has in store for us.

We settle for less than becoming the completed work that God has called us to be.

In those times in my life when I have felt like that for every step that I have taken forward that I have taken two backwards. When I have felt like I was spiritually stagnant, not growing in my relationship with God, have become discouragedbecause of it**,** I have found that the reason has always been the same...

I was not allowing God to complete the work that He started within me the day I was saved.

Scripture says:

**Being confident of this, that He who began a work in you will bring it to completion!**

God is able to complete the work that He has started within us; He is able to take us from salvation on through sanctification. He is able to completely transform us and make us holy just as He is holy, to change us into the very image and nature of Jesus.

God is not just able but...

**He who began a work in you will bring it to completion!**

God will do it!He will complete the work!

The only thing that we have to do is allow Him to…

If we allow God to complete the work that He has started within us, if we allow Him control of our life, if we simply yield our will to His on a day to day basis, then these words become words of tremendous comfort and encouragement to us...

**Being confident of this, that He who began a work in you will bring it to completion..**

Be confident of this, be assured of this, it is something that you can take to the bank!

That He who started the good work of salvation within us is faithful to complete the work that He has started.

This morning, if you find that you have lost your song in the night, that you have become discouraged in the way that your life is going, if the trials of life have robbed you of your joy, or if you maybe just feel like you are in a spiritual drought, that things are just not happening in your life and relationship with the Lord, then be encouraged by these words!

**Be confident of this, that he who began a good work within you will bring it to completion!**

Be confident; be assured that God will complete the work that He has started in you…

All that we have to do is allow Him to do it!

This morning, have you allowed God to start His good work within you, His work of Salvation?

If you have, are you allowing Him to complete the good work that He has started?

Are you daily growing in your faith and allowing God to change you from the inside out and mold you into the creation that He has for you to be?

Is it your desire to become more and more like Jesus?

That is the completed work that God has for you to be….