



THE END OF CRABGRASS

39th in the Series on Ephesians Titled, "Messages to the Misfits"

Passage: Ephesians 6:21-23 - Topic: Encouraging Others

This past Sunday, Rick continued our series on Ephesians with a message about being encouraging to others.

He described how crucial it is for us to encourage people, using Paul as an example. Paul sent Tychicus 1,450 miles to Ephesus to encourage the Christians there; in fact, the Book of Ephesians was written for the very purpose of encouraging them.

We saw how encouragement is needed by everyone, because everyone goes through hard times. The Ephesians were being persecuted for their faith, ostracized by family and friends, ridiculed and mistreated. Rick spoke about how damaging negative comments are in comparison to the power of positive words of encouragement.

Rick also pointed out that we should encourage because it is God's nature to encourage, and as His followers we want to copy God.

If we live in the Spirit, we will have the ability to encourage. We can also pray for God's equipping us to encourage others.

Some ways we can encourage others are with our words (make everyone feel important), with our help (it's very encouraging to get help when you need it!), and sticking up for people (it's powerful when someone believes in you "1000%").

To encourage others:

1. Thank God for His work in your life.
2. Rely on the Holy Spirit - the source of encouragement. Be connected to the Source. Don't fret about self - be safe in God's plan so you can focus on others.
3. Look to be a source of encouragement always with everyone (it's even good for you!).