

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – The Book of Hebrews
March 2, 2021 – Fellowship

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. – Acts 14:3

Testimony

Testimony is a powerful way to be a witness to others. The above verse is what the believers in Iconium were doing in the midst of a multitude of Jews and Greeks being saved, much persecution and opposition, and great division in the city over what they were doing. But they kept on testifying of their faith and seeing God work. Notice that they “*gave testimony unto the Word of His grace.*” Whenever a Christian gives testimony, he or she is giving facts as a witness. The center of the witness is the Lord, His Word, and His working in one’s life.

The word “testimony” = “witness, evidence given.”

In the Old Testament, “testimony” almost always refers to God’s Word, and many times it refers to the Ark of the Covenant and the Word kept in it. “Testimonies” always means God’s Word.

Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful. – Psalm 119:138

In the New Testament the word also often has the same meaning. Whenever someone in the New Testament gave a “testimony” he or she was giving witness or evidence, and most often concerning the Word and its affects.

Here is a reference to the testimony of an Old Testament saint:

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. – Hebrews 11:5

The results of our testimony are important for “that day” in the future when Jesus will return:

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. – 2 Thessalonians 1:10

We Gather Together

...for worship, preaching, study of God's Word, and mutual edification and encouragement.

This is especially important during "trying times." We need each other!

*23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. – Hebrews 10:23-25*

AND a big part of our edifying and encouraging one another is our testimonies of how the Lord has moved in our lives. Not only is it just really interesting to hear, but it also encourages us in our own lives. For the one giving the testimony, it strengthens faith to press on in one's walk with the Lord.

These blessings came on even the small remnant alive when the end was near for the southern kingdom of Judah. We know they persevered because Mary, Joseph, and the other believers of Jesus' day were still trusting the Lord centuries after the end of the Book of Malachi.

*Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another:
and the LORD hearkened, and heard it,
and a book of remembrance was written before him
for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.
– Malachi 3:16*