

S.O.H.L.

(03/24/08)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

ENCOURAGEMENT

The very first time I read **II Timothy 3:1-4** (THE LAST DAYS), I would focus on the characteristics mentioned. As I read the scripture, I felt that there was no hope because of the characteristics that are exposed, I saw most of it going on in everyday life. I noticed how people would live in a contented state. In my further studies of the same book, God opened my eyes. The Apostle Paul was prophesying the future of this world. What God was telling me was this, "the characteristics don't have a name mentioned in them", only those who live in worldliness. If you choose to live a life in the spirit, go with Jesus. This was like God handing me a big gift from the sky. You see that was "encouragement". It was God who took me under His guidance and said "it's o.k."

In the book of **Philemon**, Paul talks about a runaway slave that he met in the Roman empire named Onesimus. Under Paul's guidance, he led Onesimus to faith in Christ. Now Onesimus was faced with doing His Christian duties towards his master and returning to him. Paul also wrote a wonderful letter of intercession on Onesimus behalf.

You see like Onesimus, people will run. People will try to hide. People are scared and are in contentment because they don't know who to turn to. All they know is that they messed up! My brothers and sisters in Christ, we must be that example that God has called us to be. We must give encouragement as God instructs (His wisdom). We must let the people know, it's o.k. and lead them just as God has led us.

There will be people who are strictly interested in the contentment of their everyday life. We must encourage through prayer. Remember, it's God's glory not ours. My brother and sisters in the faith, many will remind you of your past. This is a trick of the enemy! Be encouraged according to the word that God has prescribed to you. Let your past be your past and let your past be your testimony. I would like to end this meditation with the following words of encouragement: If you tell God I am sorry and that I messed up, He will tell you, "It's o.k. The question is, do you want to go with God?"

SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Encouraging someone is not wanting the upper hand on their life.

March 1, 2008

