

# Chapter 13

## Maintaining a Sense of Necessity

“... so much the more, as ye see the day  
approaching.” – Heb 10:25

We live in a time when many churches have the wrong emphasis, aim, and goal. Their objective is to be loved and accepted by the world. When you do that, you have to make some changes and when you do that you cease to become the church that people need and you become the church that people want.

I want to take the thought for this message from Hebrews 10:22-25. *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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.”*

These verses contain several exhortations, several admonitions. The writer of Hebrews is issuing a call to action, seeking to inspire and to encourage the readers to do something of tremendous importance. The urgings that he mentions here, the exhortations are followed by a phrase, “let us”, which is in the imperative. It is a common phrase throughout the book of Hebrews, being used 12 times in the 13 chapters. This favorite phrase of the writer of Hebrews, “let us”, is of course followed by a call to action.

With these exhortations, the writer is exhorting these people of one of the Lord’s churches to persevere in the faith in the face of trials, temptations, difficulties, dangers, and even heretics. The words “let us” are imperative, which also is expressive of something that is of vital importance, absolutely crucial, essential, indispensable, and very very urgent. At the end of verse 25, he adds a phrase, *“and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.”*

The fact that the end is near, is not a bad thing, not for you and I that are saved. But, that fact adds to the importance of our duties to God. I believe it increases our responsibility and ought to increase our passion. The fact

that the end is near makes our duties to God even more crucial, even more necessary. It adds to the urgency of what we're to be doing. God has called us to do the Lord's business, the Lord's way, for His honor, for His glory. The fact that the end is near makes that even that much more urgent. If we're going to be the church that people need, we must not lose sight of the importance and the urgency of what we're called to do.

I'm afraid many today have lost sight of the importance of what you and I are called to do. They have lost sense of the urgency. God is to be our top priority. The closer we get to the end, even of our individual lives, the more we ought to realize that, "God ought to be my priority." The closer we get to the end before the Lord comes, the more we ought to be aware that God should be number one, that God needs to be our priority, that there are a lot of things that just don't matter, there are a lot of things that just are not important. We ought to be realizing that more and more and more every day. If we're going to be the church that people need, we have to maintain a sense of necessity. That is the subject of this message, maintaining necessity.

Consider first of all, the times in which we live. For a good 20 years, probably more, we have been hearing that almost as an excuse, "Churches are this way because that's the times in which we live." I think a lot of God's people have used it as an excuse not to be what they ought to be, not to do what they ought to do. But, my point is, the times in which we live ought to add to the importance of what we're to do and what we're to be. So the times in which we live should not be a detriment, but instead they ought to be an incentive in our service to the Lord.

We live in the days that are described in 2nd Timothy 3:1-8, "*This know also*", we're to know, we're to be aware of the times in which we live, we're not to be ignorant of what is going on around us, we're not to be ignorant of what is happening, "*that in the last days perilous*", dangerous, "*times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own*

*selves*”, and everything mentioned in these 8 verses goes back to that phrase, men shall be lovers of them own selves, that's the root of the problem, “*covetous*”, that's why people are covetous, because they're lovers of their own selves, “*boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady,*” or rash, “*highminded,*” puffed up, “*lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness,*” that would refer to those that profess salvation, they have a form of godliness, “*but denying the power thereof:*” and then there's some instruction, “*from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*”, that pretty much describes our society today, “*Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.*”

Then notice 2nd Timothy 3:13-14, “*But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse*”, things aren't going to get better, “*deceiving, and being deceived. But*”, in spite of all of these things, “*continue thou in the things which thou hast learned*”. Does it sound like what has been described is a detriment? NO! It's an incentive. You keep on in spite of how bad it is, in spite of the fact that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse. You as God's people keep on holding on to, “*the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*”

Yes, we live in very sinful times. We live in a very rebellious day, a time of hatred and opposition to the very truths of God. Those things are not going to get better. We live in a day when the ungodly, the wicked, are more and more relentless and determined all the time. All the while God's people are becoming less and less determined. Yet, that determination and evil should be an incentive to you and I to be determined in that which is good.

The ungodly are relentless and they are determined to promote their agenda of filthiness, defilement, vileness, wickedness, blasphemy, and heresy. They want you and I and all churches across the United States to accept them as they are. Furthermore, churches want to be loved by these people, so they don't say anything that would call into question the belief system of the ungodly, or make them uncomfortable. A church does that, they've become them. If you become them, you have ceased to be what they need. This is where we are today in the religious world.

These individuals are increasingly more brazen to force their filthy way upon everyone. This is where we get political correctness. It's disgusting, but that's another message. These individuals are very hostile, they are very, very aggressive. We live in days in which there has been a massive infiltration into our homes, into our churches, and into our schools of that which is contrary to God and, sad to say, most of God's people have just rolled over and said, "Well, that's just the way it is. You know it's the days in which we live." These things ought to be an incentive for you and I to do what's right.

We live in days of great spiritual decay. It's sad to say, we live in days when even God's people want to be loved, they want to be accepted. What do you have to be loved and accepted by the world? Well, you're going to have to become them. They begin to walk like the world, they begin to look like the world, they begin to talk like the world, they begin to think like the world. That makes for a very dangerous time, that makes for a very hazardous and very threatening time. Those are the days in which we live.

The fact that we live in the last days is never an excuse for indifference among God's people. It's never an excuse for apathy concerning the Lord's work. It is never an excuse for the lack of interest in spiritual things. It's not an excuse for a lack of enthusiasm for the things of God. It's not an excuse for a lack of concern and a lack of passion for the things of the Lord. It's never an excuse for spiritual

slackness, spiritual coldness, spiritual carelessness, spiritual lingering and hesitating. But rather, the fact that we live in the last days of the last days, and the fact that the coming of the Lord draws nigh, this should be an incentive to you and I to serve the Lord. This should be a motivation for you and I to stand up for the truth. This should be an incentive, a motivation, a stimulus for you and I to stand up and say, "That is wrong! That is sin against God," instead of being so worried about who we are going to offend and who may not come back to the church if we say these things. You better remember why you're here. Why we're here is not to be loved by this world, not to be accepted by the world. We're not promoting that we go out of our way to be hated. But, you do what's right and you will be hated. You do what's right and you're not going to be accepted by most. This should be our provocation. It should provoke us. The days in which we live should provoke us to be more earnest, serious, diligent, dedicated, zealous, and impassioned in the service of the Lord. Don't use the sinful times in which we live as an excuse for spiritual laziness. It should be an incentive.

The fact that we live in such wicked days, increases the urgency for you and I to be what we ought to be, for you and I to do what we ought to do. It increases the sense of urgency for husbands to be men, to be what the Bible tells them to be, for wives and for children to be what the Bible tells them to be. There's an urgency because of the day in which we live. We can not lose that sense of urgency. We can not lose our incentive to serve the Lord.

We can not lose this sense of necessity. We must have an awareness, an understanding, a grasp of the times in which we live. That should cause us to maintain a sense of urgency, a sense of necessity. In 1 st Corinthians 9:16, I realize Paul is talking about preaching, but he says, "*for necessity is laid upon me*", that is "I have to." It's absolutely necessary. There are a lot of things that ought to be absolutely necessary for you and I. Those things ought to

become more and more necessary all the time, because of the day in which we live. This might offend some, but it's truth. I'm afraid that many of God's people and many churches today have become part of the problem rather than the solution. We don't want to ever become part of the problem. If we do that, we cease to be what people need.

The fact that we live in the last days ought to incite us to be what we ought to be and to do what we ought to do. There must be a full realization of the importance and urgency of doing God's business, God's way. God's business can not be done any way you please. It's His business. It must be done God's way, and it must be done for His honor and for His glory. We must never lose sight of the importance and necessity of that. We live in a day when the religious world wants to secularize the things of God. What happens when you secularize the spiritual? They're no longer spiritual, they're now carnal. That's not what people need. People don't need carnality. They've got plenty of that. They need spirituality.

Today, secularizing the things of God is very, very common. Why do people do that? Well, it makes the ungodly feel at ease. It makes them able to go to a church and feel comfortable, happy, entertained, and most importantly, non-threatened. Nothing they believe has been threatened, and they go home happy. But, they haven't heard one thing that they really need. Not one thing.

If we're going to be the church that people need, we must maintain a distinction, we have to be separate from the world. We have to be distinct from the philosophy of the world, from the reasoning of the world, from the ways of the world, from the pursuits of both the secular world and the religions world. There must be a difference. As the world gets more and more wicked, isn't there something wrong when there isn't much of a contrast between God's people and the world? This isn't rocket science. Isn't there something wrong? People are getting more and more wicked and yet the distinction is becoming less and less and less.

What's that tell you? It tells us that God's people are becoming part of the world. It's not our calling to harmonize with the world, to be compatible with the world, whether it be the secular world or the religious world. So much the more as ye see the day approaching.

We must maintain a distinction. Most people don't realize today, but there's a difference between clean and unclean. We had better maintain the distinction. There's a difference today between that which is holy and that which is unholy. It's our responsibility to maintain the distinction and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. "Well everybody's doing it." That's just that much more reason for you not to.

There is a clear distinction between right and wrong. "Well who's to judge between right and wrong?" God has already judged what is right and what is wrong. We don't have to determine what is right and what is wrong. It's already been determined, we just have to stand on the side of right. If you stand on the side of right, you stand also against wrong. That's our responsibility. So much the more as you see the day approaching.

There is a difference today between truth and error, and we are to maintain that difference. "Well, we need to accept everyone's belief." Where do you find that in God's word? There is a distinction between truth and error. Don't you see that there is a difference between the doctrine of God and the doctrines of demons? There's a difference, and we must maintain that difference. If we do not maintain that difference and we do not see the absolute urgency of maintaining that difference, we cease to be what people need.

We can not allow the secular or the religious world to determine and dictate what we believe and what we practice. "Well, Brother Dan, don't you know nobody believes that any more." First of all, that's not true. I agree there's not many, but there are people that believe the truth. We can not allow the world to dictate to us what is true. God has already dictated that.



In a wicked and evil day, when the objective of the religious world, for the most part, is skewed, we must maintain a proper objective. It gets back to, “not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord.” It gets discouraging at times, because we live in a day when the majority of people are just dazzled by the world's philosophies, ideas, and ways even though they are in direct contradiction of the word of God. If we're going to be the church that people need, we must maintain a distinction.

We must maintain a proper objective, no matter what the newest trend is. I don't really care what the newest trend is, no matter how popular it might be, who might accept it, and who might approve of it. You and I have a responsibility, and so much the more as we see the day approaching, to maintain a distinction. We must see the necessity of that.

It's just like David when he came upon the scene and there was Saul, Abner, and some great men. They were all cowering before Goliath and David said, “is there not a cause?” Can't you all see that? There's a cause, David said. There's a cause today and it's the cause of God. There is no greater cause in all the world, and we must realize the necessity of the cause. We must realize and have a sense of the urgency and it must be our continual quest to maintain a distinction, so the people will know that there is a difference.

We live in a day of upheaval, of great change. We must maintain a regularity. Earlier in this series of messages, I presented a message, “the same people, in the same place, doing the same thing.” That's what we need to be, week after week after week, year after year after year. We need to maintain a regularity, a steadiness in doing the Lord's business in the Lord's way.

In a day when there are many opposing forces, many opposing bearers and obstacles, in a day when the devil's programs and agendas are becoming more and more accepted even by God's people, and more and more tolerated, somebody needs to stand, to be firm, be a voice of common

sense, be steadfast, resolute, determined, decided for the things of the Lord. Someone needs to be adamant, unwavering, unshakable, and that's you and I. That's what we must be. We must be valiant for the cause of the Lord.

If we're going to be the church that people need, we have got to be a people of backbone, fortitude, resolve, and perseverance. Paul said, "*be ye steadfast*", that is relentless, unchanging, uncompromising. Be "*unmovable*", which means you're unaffected by opposition, obstacles, and that which is popular; "*always*", that simply means no matter what; "*abounding*", being plentiful, being fruitful; "*in the work of the Lord.*" Then he added, "*and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.*" Yes, we're to be steadfast, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

God has absolutes. People want to do away with the absolutes of a holy God. You know why they want to do that? It so they can do what they want to do, because they're lovers of themselves. In a day when people want to do away with the absolutes of a holy God and want nothing to do with the God of the Bible, they invent a God that they can accept in their minds, a God that will let them live as they please, do as they please, and think as they please. In a day when the world does not tolerate biblical convictions, we need a strict adherence to, a strict compliance with the word of God, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We need to act in accordance with the word of God. We need to take seriously that the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. Every church says that, but very few practice it. We need to be the church that people need.

We need to be a people who grasp, who hold unto, who lay hold of that which is good. 1st Thessalonians 5:21, says, "... *hold fast that which is good.*" That means there are some things that aren't good. Let them go. Speaking of the spiritual, you get something that's good, you hold unto it. You don't let anything get in the way. Revelation 3:2, says hold fast the things "which remain". Churches have lost

much, but you better hold on to what you have left, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.

You see you and I must continue on, we must keep on, we must persist, we must press on. We do so for many reasons. First of all, for the Lord. Also for the sake of the church, for the sake of future generations, but first and foremost it's for the Lord. Somebody needs to stand for the truth for these little ones, for future generations, that they will know what the truth is. Someone needs to stand for the sake of the truth and someone needs to stand for the Lord's glory and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

This world is a mixed up place. I feel less and less at home in this world all the time. I feel like an alien. You go to the mall, it's sickening. I mean, it's about all I can take. It tests my patients. "Well you need to be more loving, you need to be more accepting." Well, you pray for me in that then. This world is a mixed up place, filled with that which is vile. I don't want to ever accept that which is vile. It's filled with that which is retched. It's filled with people who have been deceived, and who are pursuing earnestly and clinging to that which will not work. They pursue these things. You and I, we have the solution. The word of God has the solution, the answer, and the remedy. Don't water it down. This is what they need. Is it what they want? No. But it is what they need. We must, and so much the more as we see the day approaching, share the truth and communicate truth to those that so desperately need it. "Well they don't want to hear it." Tell them anyway. They may not want to hear it, but they need to hear it, and they need to be told.

If we're going to be the church that people need, our love for the Lord must be fervent. Our love for the Lord must be intense, without reservation, and uninhibited. So much the more as ye see the day approaching. Our love for the Lord ought to fill us with excitement, with enthusiasm for the Lord, ought to have a strong drawing effect upon our hearts, and ought to cause us to be attracted to the Lord and the things of the Lord and less and less and less attracted to

the things of this world. So much the more as ye see the day approaching. Our love for the Lord ought to cause us to love the Lord's house, the Lord's day, the Lord's people, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

If we're going to be the church that people need, we need to be a people of prayer. We've already preached on these things. We need to be a people committed to praying for lives to be changed. And so much the more as you see the day approaching. We ought to be a people committed to praying for God to give us showers of blessing, so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We ought to be praying for moms and dads, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We ought to be praying for young children and teens and young adults and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We ought to be praying for husbands and wives for marriages and homes and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. I personally do not see, as far being widespread, that God's people are praying more. I believe they're praying less and less all the time. They have less time to do so, because they fill up their days with the world. There's only so much time in a day. You buy all the world's toys, and I assume that you buy them to use them. There's only so much time. When are you going to use them? Usually the Lord's day. So much the more as we see the day approaching we need to be a people of prayer. We need to be a people that prays that God would give us the ability to be what we ought to be, to do what we ought to do, that God would give us the burden and the power to be what we ought to be and to do what we ought to do.

If we're going to be the church that people need, we need to seek to excel spiritually, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We ought to always be striving, to always be moving forward spiritually, always striving to be spiritually increasing and developing and advancing, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. We ought to feel that these things are necessary. We ought to feel with

Paul, necessity is laid upon me, I've got to do this, I can't do anything else. This is urgent. That needs to be our attitude.

So many times things of God are put way, way back and we'll get to them if we have time. The end is coming. None of us know when we're going to die, but some of us can do the math. You don't have much longer. What are you waiting for? All through my ministry, I've heard people say, "Well I will one day." Now they're getting pretty close to the end and they still haven't. God help us, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

If we're going to be the church that people need, we must be a people that worship the Lord, who find the house of worship to be a very beautiful place, to be a very fascinating place, a very interesting and desirable place, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

The times in which we live are not an excuse for indifference, apathy, and they should not be a detriment to the Lord's work. Rather they ought to be an incentive for you and I to be more diligent, more dedicated, more zealous, more impassioned, in the Lord's work. The times in which we live, I believe, serve to manifest the importance, the urgency, and the necessity of the Lord's work. We've gone too far to quit now, and it just wouldn't make sense. There is an urgency about the Lord's work, and we need to be doing it God's way, for His honor, for His glory. Each and every passing day, in the times in which we live, ought to cause us to feel, "I've got to live for the Lord today, cause I don't have much time left, I've got to live for the Lord today because it's so very important. I've got to advance further spiritually today. I've got to go a little further than I was yesterday, because it's so very important, because this world is a mixed up place." This world is a terrible place. It's a sinful place.

The Lord has kept us here to do His work, not our own bidding. God has not left you here so you can have a good time. That's not what it's about. It's about Him. That ought to be a good time for us, just serving the Lord, just serving Him. Oh, that we would feel an urgency.

Look around at the little ones. Don't you see there's a cause to stand? You might be the only one who stands, but somebody has got to stand, so stand. Stand for the cause of Christ. That's the only way that we can be the church that people need. "Well if we do all of those things, the world will think we're nuts." There's something wrong with you if the world doesn't think you're nuts. It means that you have given in to them, you've become them. You can't be what they need, if you're just like them.