

ACTS 31

ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK

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As we embark on the last four parts of our Church covenant it is best to read the last two paragraphs of our covenant. "We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the laws of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other New Testament Baptist Church of like faith and practice where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word."

We shall focus today on that part, "We further engage ... to aid each other in sickness and distress..." At the outset, the sicknesses and distresses mentioned in our Covenant refer to those that affect the man – body, soul and spirit.

We are living in a troubled world. Many of our challenges in life are unlimited and the degrees of pressure vary. As such, many are unable to cope so outside help becomes vital. To us believers, we must bear in mind that genuine help emanates from the Church (Psalm 20:2). God sends what every man needs in the Church indeed. The Church is God's wisdom and work. It is the pillar and ground of truth. It is where God gets the glory.

Our covenant therefore to support each other physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, morally, and spiritually is God's design. Our memory verse specifically puts this truth clearly.

Here is a direct command to each of us – "... ye ought to support the weak ..." God's word here is "ought." It means to be held or bound in duty or moral obligation.

Here is a statement that the above command was not to be a trial and error. "I have showed you all things..." says the verse. Paul and the others have somehow provided a good pattern of supporting the weak. Christian life or Church life is not something we discover in our mere experiences. God Himself has shown us how to (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Cor. 11:1).

Here is a statement on the "hows" of Divine way of supporting. The verse reads in part, "... how that so labouring ye ought to support the

weak..." The sense is that they should labor with their hands as he did, and so support the weak. Paul had, at one point in his ministry, worked as a tentmaker just to make things meet in his ministry since by that time the saints and churches were too unable to support him.

Here is the identified recipient of the believers' support – the weak. The weak here first refers to those who are weak in body and unable to work and help themselves. The sick and those with disabilities are included. In our times, these are the powerless. The weak here also includes the emotionally drained. The distressed soul cannot think straight. He needs a shoulder to cry on. The weak referred to here includes those who are weak in faith, especially the new converts. These are those who are easily offended and stumble from the truth for every hardship that they may face. The babe in Christ, generally weak in faith, may be offended with hard doctrines, too.

Here further a clear statement of such help – "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Giving our substance is giving a portion of our sources of living. Here further is the fact that the helper or supporter or giver is more comfortable, honourable, pleasant, and profitable. The giver is in a more comfortable situation. He is in a state of abundance or at least a sufficiency, and something to spare. The receiver, on the other hand, is often in want and distress. This is the spirit of the statement here – more blessed to give to than to receive. Moreover, the giver is honoured both by the receiver, and others. Receiving is more often an instance of meanness, and carries in it, among men, some degree of dishonour.

This verse however should be taken in the context of the Church. Notice in verse 17 of the same chapter of this memory that Paul was addressing the leaders of the Church in Ephesus. Giving must always be coursed through the Church. Why, because Eph. 3:21 says so. There is no one from among us who should take the glory!

Our covenant to aid each other in sickness and in distress aims for every one's betterment meaning each one be sanctified and our "... whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

May each of us be found always abounding in aiding one another the work of the Lord from this time henceforth.

Pastor ARNOLD N. VALLEJO

**TITLE: ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN AIDING EACH OTHER IN SICKNESS AND DISTRESS
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD
TEXT: I THESSALONIANS 5:1-28
MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 20:35**

**I. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS
ABOUNDING IN AIDING EACH OTHER IN
SICKNESS AND DISTRESS BY
GOD'S WAY OF RESPOND-
ING TO THIS NEED.**

- A. Our text in verses 1-6 sets the pretext of our main lesson of aiding one another in sickness and distress – having the mind of God and Heaven's greater plan. Our text clearly discusses the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is the ultimate end that everyone of us is focused upon in our age. This is no secret especially to every living saint today (Verse 1; I John 3:2).
- B. Moreover, His "glorious appearing" is not only certain but also anytime now.
- C. Knowing the certainty of both His coming again any moment now as well as our death on earth is enough reason for each of us to set our priorities. We must get ready to meet Him whether we are sick and distressed or not. Sickness and distresses will always be with us (Job 5:7; Job 14:1).
- D. Thus, despite these things that trouble many of our brethren, let each of us encourage one another to first the kingdom. In the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5, our Saviour taught us that our basic temporal needs will always be taken good care of by God when each of us learns to follow His will first (Verses 4-6).
- E. We shall be found abounding in one another in sicknesses and distresses by:
 - personally seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. May each of us indeed take heed of Col. 3:1. Our mind and attention must be filled by the things of heaven.
 - personally setting our affections on things above. Our hearts must indeed yearn for the heartbeat of God. We must learn to love what God loves. We must grow in our love for Him and things of God.
 - individually encouraging the brethren to have the same thought and desire for things above, for God, and the things of God.
- F. This is God's way. To many, such mindset seems to be unloving or cruel. To many, the sick and distressed must take a break and freed from pressures.

Hence, persuading them still to follow God's commands is cruelty. But to us, God's way is our indeed much needed rest (Matt. 11:28-30; I John 5:3). In fact, they are more important than our necessary food.

- G. Moreover, we must bear in mind that God's ways are really past out. We only get to quite understand it by simply acting on His words even though such ways seem to be impossible. We must bear in mind His testimony in the beginning. He just spoke and all the world came into being!
- H. May each of us further consider the following accounts: (a) Isa. 35:1; (b) Isa. 43:18-19.

**II. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS
ABOUNDING IN AIDING EACH OTHER IN
SICKNESS AND DISTRESS BY
FAITHFULLY TO SUPPORT
THE PROGRAMS OF OUR CHURCH.**

- A. Our Saviour and the Church cannot be Christ is the head, the Church is His body! Being part of such a great body is indeed needful especially the sick and distressed. Hence, as Christ being the Head is every believers rest, so must be His Church being His body. We therefore abound in aiding each other in sickness and distress by continually strengthening the Church through our financial support. This indeed is true Bible sobriety (v.8).
- B. We show sobriety by putting into our faith. We understand that faith is taking God at His Word. We must therefore encourage one another that each of us obey together God's command as regards what belongs to Him – the tithes (Lev. 27:30). The Lord's tithes, specifically here at CBBC-LB, is the meat in God's house as Mal. 3:10 says. The tithes we bring here are used in supporting the daily operations of our Church. Our tithes take care of our electric bills, water bills and all other necessary things for the conduct of our regular services or gatherings. Our tithes communicates to God our willingness to allow His program for this world to continue.
- C. We also show sobriety by Divine love. We must bear in mind that our giving in the Church is the proof of our love (II Cor. 8:8). A love that gives is God's way. John 3:16 clearly teaches that love is giving our best for the loved ones. Our love offerings, our Christmas gift to Jesus every end of the year, our firstfruits offerings every February Church anniversary celebration, and our treasure offerings every September

are all the infallible proofs of our love at CBBC-LB.

- D. In verse 9 of our text we read, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ..." Salvation in Him brings _____ and _____ joy. People are spending much time, efforts and money looking for joy but only His salvation can fully satisfy. We must not forget that sin brings curse and bitterness. Our offerings all go to our soulwinning, evangelistic, visitation and fetching converts and guests our nearby towns so we bring them to God's place. When we generously give our regular and annual offerings, we send God's truth to the dying and lost world.
- E. We know further that man's sicknesses and distresses come from many of different areas of life and God's way of easing these things is in _____. and in the _____. True peace and happiness is in the Lord and in His Church. Thus, by supporting the Church's work through our faith promise offerings, we are extending the ability of the Church to help more people to the regions beyond find their refuge in God (Psalm 92:13; Neh. 8:10).
- F. There is an interesting story of our giving in Church for God's work really honours God and _____ the possibilities of aiding each other in sickness and distress.

III. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN AIDING EACH OTHER IN SICKNESS AND DISTRESS BY _____ SPIRITUALLY IN SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF OUR CHURCH.

- A. Our text in verse 11 clearly commands each of us to comfort ourselves together as well as to _____ one another. Again, the term comfort means to come to an aid in order to ease the burdens of the troubled. The term edify on the other hand means to build up or strengthen. Obviously, helping others demands that we are stronger and more able. This will only be possible if each of us grows in our faith.
- B. It is God's will and intention for every believer to grow _____ (II Pet. 3:18). It is in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that we can all grow.
- C. We must bear in mind that Christ and His Church cannot be _____. Growing in Christ is growing indeed in Church. Praise God, for in our Church, we have all the right and privilege to grow. God made sure we grow in the Church. We just need to develop our loyalty and love for her gatherings.
- D. In the Church, God gave us a _____ to build us up (Jer. 3:15; Eph. 4:11-12). Let us all grow together through the preaching and teaching we hear from the blessed pulpit. We

must treat the CBBC-LB pulpit as God's place to help, support and aid the sick and the distressed. Moreover, let us grow together in lifting up the preacher in our prayers always and remember him in everything. Our text in verses 12-13 beseeches us thus: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

- E. In the gathering or assembling, our Saviour promises His presence as this is the time spent for the _____. Truth liberates each of us from the clutches of darkness. Truth gives us joy. Truth gives us strength. Truth brings peace and contentment. Truth ushers us to a life of blessings. Hence, each of us can only grow in our faithful attendance in Church. Why? - the Church, according to I Tim. 3:15, "...is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." It is where the Bible is preached, taught, and obeyed.
- F. In addition, the Church, according to Eph. 3:10, is where "the manifold wisdom of God" is made known. God's wisdom indeed is what each of us need to _____ and become useful to others (Psalm 92:13; Psalm 1:3).
- G. It is therefore _____ that if we were to aid each other in sickness and in distress that we do as (Heb. 10:25). Attendance in Church gatherings - mid-week services and Sunday services as well as our scheduled annual special services - is a must. All of us must always be bodily present. Our absence in those gatherings is a vote to close down God's church!
- H. In addition to our bodily presence (or attendance), we are to be _____ involved in the discipleship program of our Church. Many of our physical illnesses are manifestations of spiritual distresses (or vexation of the soul and spirit). As such, we need to grow spiritually so that sicknesses and distresses could be minimized, if not eradicated. Prevention is always better than cure. Growing fast through our discipleship program will widen our knowledge in the word of God and eventually will give us a vast avenue of opportunities to work out the lessons we have learned.
- I. In addition to our involvement in our discipleship program, may each of us get involved also in our Church _____. Our text in verses 14-28 enumerates this discipline where we must grow.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE DAY 101-107

		1 Kings 6-7:
Mon	5-DEC	(1) With the use of a carefully planned design, cedar and cypress, carved decorations, and pure gold, what would be your main impression of this house of God? (2) With the size of the brass/bronze pillars, Sea, and basins, what would be your other impression as you approach the Temple? (3) While Solomon was building the temple, what conditional promise did God give?
		1 Kings 8:
Tue	6-DEC	(1) What does Solomon emphasize is the real dwelling place of God? (2) Why did Solomon ask God to answer prayer made toward this house of God? (3) What should a person or group do to continue in the LORD's goodness and to experience God's hand of deliverance?
		1 Kings 9-11:
Wed	7-DEC	(1) Although the blessings were great, they could all be destroyed. According to the LORD's warning in 9:3-9, what must Solomon do? (2) What does Solomon's blessings (wisdom, wealth, fame, etc.) tell us about God? (3) Why did the LORD raise up enemies against Solomon to trouble him?
		1 Kings 12-13:
Thu	8-DEC	(1) Why did Rehoboam harshly respond to the people's request? (2) What was Jeroboam's great sin? (3) What did Rehoboam do that the man of God also did at first?
		Kings 14-16:
Fri	9-DEC	(1) What is the LORD's attitude toward His people when they worship other gods? (2) Why did David's descendants continue ruling Judah although many were evil? (3) What is the repeated standard by which a king's reign is described?
		1 Kings 17-19:
Sat	10-DEC	(1) What does chapter 17 teach us about the Lord's speaking to us and its result? (2) According to chapter 18, how did the LORD and Elijah fight against the worship of false gods among God's people? (3) According to chapter 19, how does the LORD respond to a discouraged, fearful preacher of His Word?
Sun	11-DEC	PSALMS 58-62

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER

Bear ye one another's burdens,
As ye struggle on thro' life;
Turn not on your erring brother,
Add not to his care and strife;
Let your heart beat kindly for him,
For this world with sin is rife.
If his burden be so heavy,
That he stoops beneath the care,
Help him bear it, of your vigor,
Give him as you well can spare.

Wipe away the tears of sorrow
Falling from his weary eyes;
Point him to a joy eternal,
In the land beyond the skies,
Ere his pining heart in anguish,
Bitter, hopeless anguish, dies.
Sympathy and love can brighten
Burdens that are hard to bear;
Angels bright will help you nobly,
Angels from the land so fair.

Wrap not close your mantle 'round you—
Mantle dark, of selfish pride;
In your bosom, gentle impulse
Do not strive to crush or hide;
There is much of good and evil
In this world so broad and wide.
Much for willing hearts of labor,
Much of good there is to do;
Then arouse! leave not the burden
Bearing heavy on the few.

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2022

5	Pastor's Wife Birthday
23	Christmas Cantata
25	Christmas Gift to Jesus /Fellowship
28-30	BYF Year End Overnight Fellowship
28	Prayer Meeting/Year End Song Festival
30	Sunday School Teacher's Training

January 2023

1	New Year Service and Fellowship
20	Couples & Single Parents Conference
22	CBBM Binangonan Anniversary

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY Sunday School - 8:30 AM Morning Service - 10 AM Afternoon Service - 2:30 PM Group Fellowship - 4 PM Discipleship - 4:30 PM	Doctrines Class - 5:30 PM Prayer Meeting - 6:30 PM
THURSDAY	
Soulwinning - 6:30 PM	

FRIDAY
Orchestra Practice - 7:00 PM

MONDAY BYSC Soulwinning - 5:30 PM
TUESDAY BYSC Bible Study - 5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY BYSC Dawn Prayer - 5:30 AM

SATURDAY
Whole Day Area Visitation
& Soulwinning - 8:30 AM
Choir - 3:00 PM
SST Mtg - 4:00 PM
Sabbath Class - 5:00 PM

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM	455	FTV	42
Sunday PM	200	Baptism	5
Prayer Mtg	129		