

Coming Together

Pastor David Miller

After 14 years of pastoring I have often wondered how many times I have encouraged people in the church not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. I recently did this and as I did I thought about our relationships within AFCM.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV), "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." This past year it has been on the Kaseman's hearts that this congregation (of AFCM) needs to connect, strengthen, and touch one another more often. I realize this verse in Hebrews is talking about the local church, but I also believe that it is talking about groups of ministers coming together to strengthen and touch each other's lives.

AFCM has given us many opportunities to come together this year. There are Family Reunions, overnights, and regular regional meetings. I also realize as a pastor that your time is very valuable, but so is your spiritual and mental health. We need one another. I need your encouragement and wisdom. I know that every time I go to an AFCM meeting I am refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened spiritually and mentally.

It is difficult to build the close relationships within our churches because we cannot connect on certain levels, but we can with one another. I especially want to encourage you to attend any meetings that Dr. Kaseman is ministering in. He is the pastor of this congregation and we need to hear what God has placed in his heart. I have heard Dr. Kaseman say many times that when we are successful, then AFCM is successful because we are AFCM.

I want to encourage you to attend every meeting you can possibly attend the rest of this year and then again next year – Family Reunion, overnights, and regional meetings. These meetings are for you, for your edification, refreshing,

and strengthening. We are honored to be a part of what God is doing through AFCM and as we are successful, we are all successful.

Keep on preaching the gospel and building God's kingdom and we will all succeed. 2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV), "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

Thanks, David. We couldn't have said it better ourselves!! CONNECT NOW with AFCM on Facebook and Twitter and stay up to date on what God is doing through the AFCM Family around the world!!

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AFCM

A CALL TO THE NATIONS

REACHING THE NATIONS WITH FAITH

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!



Jim and Kathleen with Grandkids



Contending for the Faith

Dr. Jim Alessi

Coming Together

Pastor David Miller



Contending for the faith speaks of being absolutely faithful and loyal to Jesus Christ who is the Truth. When the Apostle Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith," he was saying that he had remained loyal and faithful to Jesus (the Word of God) and refused to allow the fear of man to cause him to pervert, distort, or change God's word in any way.

A Solemn Obligation

God's word must be our standard in every area of life (II Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 101:6), and those who are faithful to Christ are placed under the solemn obligation to contend for it.

"... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3

"Guard and keep (with the greatest care) the precious and excellently adapted (truth) which has been entrusted (to you), by the (help of the) Holy Spirit who makes His home in us." II Tim 1:14 AMP

"For whoever is ashamed [here and now] of Me and My words in this adulterous (unfaithful) and [preeminently] sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory (splendor and majesty) of His Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 AMP

Contending Defined

The word "contend" describes the battle that the faithful believers must fight in defense of the faith. It literally means to "struggle, to suffer, to be under great stress, to fight a fight which may be costly and agonizing. We must exert ourselves to the utmost in the defense of God's Word and Biblical faith, deny ourselves, and if need be, accept martyrdom for the sake of the gospel (II Timothy 3:12; II Tim. 4:6-8; Matthew 16:24-26 AMP).

Contending for the faith means to take a direct stand against those within the church who deny the authority of

the Bible or distort the gospel as presented by Jesus and the apostles. Contending for the faith means to proclaim the gospel as redemptive truth to all people. Those whose allegiance is to Christ and His Word must never allow its message to be weakened by compromising its authority, distorting the truth, or explaining away its power and promises.

Contending for the faith means that we will be taking a direct stand against:

- Satan (Matthew 16:23; Ephesians 6:10-20)
- Men
 - Men who pervert the gospel and preach a different gospel (Galatians 1:6-9).
 - Men who are divisive, teaching opinions and doctrines that have no biblical basis (Titus 3:10-11).
 - Peter stood against men with destructive doctrines (II Peter chapters 1-3)
 - The Apostle John instructed us to remove from our midst men who didn't abide in the doctrine of Christ (II John 9-11)
 - Jude stood against false teachers and apostasy (Jude 1-25).
 - Jesus warned us of deceiving leaders fourteen times in the gospels (Matthew 7:15-23; II Corinthians 11:13-15; II Thessalonians 2:9-12).

Safeguards for Us

The scriptures are clear that we are to rightly divide the word of truth and have sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:1-4) so that we would not lead God's people astray (I Peter 5:1-4). Thank God we have the written Word of God and the Holy Spirit as our teacher!

- "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" II Timothy 2:15.
- The entire Bible speaks of one Redeemer and one plan of redemption for mankind. Jesus tells us that the scriptures speak of Him (Luke 24:44-48). Therefore, you

should be able to find basic Christian doctrine in:

- Genesis in seed form
 - The books of Moses as types and shadows
 - Psalms in sacred song
 - The prophets as prophecy
 - The gospels as Jesus taught the Word
 - The Acts as the Apostles taught/practiced the Word
 - The Epistles as doctrine
- Now you have seven witnesses!

3. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Be willing to be corrected when wrong, that you may endure to the end and be saved (Matthew 10:22; Hebrews 3:12-13; James 1:14-16).

Conclusion

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Jesus said the way is narrow, difficult and only a few will find it (Matthew 7:13-14). Isaiah 35:8-9 speaks of the "highway of Holiness." Jesus tells us that only those who walk in love, holiness, and purity will see Him (Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:1-12; I Thessalonians 3:12-13; Ephesians 1:4; Romans 13:8-10).

The Word (Jesus) is to be loved by believers who see God's word as the final and ultimate truth for a lost and dying world. We must safeguard its doctrines by faithfully adhering to its teachings, proclaiming its saving message, entrusting it to reliable people, and defending it against those who would distort or destroy its eternal truths. By doing so, we remain loyal and faithful to Jesus as we contend for the faith!



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