**LIVING with ENRICHMENT**

**John 16.12—15 8-29-21am, QBC**

Today’s message is brought to you by the letter “E.” Cookie Monster says, “C is for cookie …” E is for **ENRICHMENT**.

The Oxford American Dictionary tells us that **ENRICH means** “to **improve** the quality of **by adding things**.” To enrich our Christian lives means to improve the quality of our lives by adding things.

Enrichment means **growing as disciples** of Jesus Christ.

You have to **BE** a disciple of Jesus.

 A. Being SAVED.

 B. Following Him in obedience

I was in a group one time called MasterLife.

 In MasterLife we learned that there are **3 commitments** of a disciple

 1. Deny yourself

 2. Take up your cross and

 3. Follow Jesus

Now that is not coming out of Nashville. That is not just some study. That is STRAIGHT outta Jesus! (see Luke 9.23).

In addition to e commitments, we learned about **4 DSISCIPLINES** :

 1. Living in the word

 2. Praying in faith

 3. Fellowshipping with believers and

 4. Witnessing to the world

 These are four things that EVERY believer in Jesus **CAN** and **SHOULD** do.

**Are we adding to** our Christian lives?

 Another way to ask it is, **are we GROWING**?

 Growth is a SIGN of LIFE.

 Living things GROW and develop.

Look at our passage in John 16 . . .

Jesus says, “I have MANY things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now” (12)

Take note Jesus is talking to His closest disciples at the END of His earthly

 ministry. This is RIGHT BEFORE the crucifixion and resurrection.

 Jesus has been walking with these guys for 3 years. He has been talking with them, showing them, teaching them. He has poured countless HOURS of His life into them. He STILL has MANY things to tell them.

After 3 years, they still need to hear and learn things. They still needed to ADD things to their lives.

While there was MUCH they needed to hear, they weren’t ready. It wasn’t the right time. They needed to **GROW**. They needed to **add to** their lives

Jesus says that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will **GUIDE** THEM into all the truth 13).

· The Holy Spirit is our GUIDE into God’s TRUTH (12).

· He will speak what He hears (13).

· He will declare what is to come (13b)

· He will glorify Jesus (14)

· He will take the things of Jesus and declare them to us (14b –15)

After three years of learning with Jesus, the disciples still had MANY things to learn. Jesus said the Holy Spirit was going to come and take His place. The Holy Spirit would become the GUIDE. The Spirit is our GUIDE.

I doubt **ANY** of us here today would say, “I know everything about Jesus.”

 Who could say, “I know everything about the Bible?”

I guess the question for US is, do we know everything Jesus **EXPECTS** us to know? Do we know what Jesus **WANTS** us to know? **Are we ADDING TO our faith**? Are we **GROWING** in our walk with the Lord?

The Christian life is a WALK. It is a WAY of LIFE. If Jesus doesn’t affect our everyday living, **do we HAVE a relationship** with Him?

The idea is NOT that we have ***punched our ticket*** to heaven, and now we are just sitting in the station house waiting for the train to glory to come and take us home.

The idea is that **we have joined God’s ARMY**. We are involved in a spiritual WAR. We sharpen our skills. We are on maneuvers. We undertake special operations. WE are soldiers 24/7. One NEVER retires out of God’s army.

Paul says the weapons of our warfare aren’t physical, they aren’t natural. They are spiritual. They are mighty in God (2 C 10.3-6)

Eph 6 tells us about our spiritual armor that the Lord provides. He gives us the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth and the boots of the gospel of peace. He provides the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith. He makes available the weapon of prayer.

 We are called upon to **stand**. We stand for God. We are to stand **UP** and to stand **OUT**.

 We are SUPPOSED to shine as lights in this world.

 We are supposed to be SALTING the earth.

 ARE **WE** shiny and salty ???

 ARE **we** STANDING??

Another great passage is Eph 4.11—16

 11 - God gives gifts to the church for the EQUIPPING of the saints.

 Equipping the saints for the work of ministry (12)

 13 - until we reach (arrive at, to meet against)

 Unity in the faith and unity in the knowledge of the Son

 Here is another picture — life as a JOURNEY

 13 - GROWING into maturity

 With a stature measured by Christ’s fullness

 14 - then we will NO LONGER be little CHILDREN

 15 - let us GROW in EVERY way into Him who is the Head — Christ

The Christian life is a **PROCESS**.

 It is a **JOURNEY**.

 It is a **MISSION** behind enemy lines.

Here is something that happened just THIS month —

 (International Christian Concern) – On August 15, 2021, eleven Christians, in India, were brutally attacked by anti-Christian activists in Adnadhi village, the Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh. During the incident, a mob of nearly 250 people, led by the village Mukya (chief), physically assaulted the Christians for refusing to denounce Jesus. Of the eleven attacked, four sustained serious internal injuries and are being treating at a local hospital.

According to an ICC source, the village chief summoned the village Christians at 4pm on the evening of the attack, to an area where the large mob had already assembled. When the Christians arrived, the village chief threatened them and told them to either leave Jesus, or leave the village.

When the Christians refused to leave Jesus, the mob immediately started to beat the Christians with both their hands and stones. Eventually the incident was reported to the local police, however the authorities refused to file a complaint against the attackers.

Adnadhi village has a total of 15 Christian families who accepted Jesus as Lord nearly 20 years ago, according to local sources. Although there was an opposition soon after their conversion, the recent attack came as a complete shock, leaving the families shattered. (persecution.org)

I am sure you are aware of what is going on over **in Afghanistan**. Here is some insight for us — “*We are telling people to stay in their houses because going out now is too dangerous,*” a Christian leader in Afghanistan, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, told International Christian Concern (ICC) last week. While a general amnesty has been announced by the Taliban, this leader **feared Christians will still be targeted by Taliban fighters** patrolling Kabul and other cities.

“*Some known Christians are already receiving* ***threatening phone calls****,*” the Christian leader told ICC. “*In these phone calls, unknown people say, ‘We are coming for you’.*”

While ICC has not confirmed any targeted killings of Christians, Release International’s Spokesman, Andrew Boyd, claimed **at least one Christian has been killed by the Taliban**.

“*The* ***Taliban have been checking phones to check if there are any bibles downloaded*** *onto their phones,*” Boyd to GB News. “*We have a report that at least on Hazara has been killed as a result of this.*”

Afghanistan’s Christian community is almost exclusively comprised of converts from Islam. Some estimate the Christian population to be between 8,000 and 12,000, making it one of the country’s largest religious minority groups. However, due to extreme persecution, the Christian community remains largely closeted and hidden from the public eye.

Their status as converts makes Afghan Christians direct targets for persecution by both extremist groups and society in general. In Afghanistan, leaving Islam is considered extremely shameful and converts can face dire consequences if their conversion is discovered.

In many cases, known Christians must flee Afghanistan or risk being killed.

According to the Taliban’s ideology, Afghanistan is a Muslim country and non-Muslims must leave Afghanistan or accept second class status. For Christians, coming from convert backgrounds, the Taliban will consider them apostate and subject to Sharia’s deadliest consequences. (persecution.org)

American soldiers were **killed** by suicide bombers at the airport. Talk about a mission behind enemy lines! **They will not quit** until they receive orders to leave.

What about **us**? We are **GOD’s ARMY** in this world. We are behind enemy lines. WE must **NEVER** quit.

We must **never stop GROWING**. We must NEVER stop ADDING TO our lives!

 Are we up on our training?

 Do we know our orders?

 Are our weapons cleaned and our magazines full of ammo?

 Have we been to the practice range lately?

 Are we adding to our readiness?

 Are we LIVING for Jesus?

 Are we WALKING with Jesus?

Are we wiling to **DIE** for Jesus???

**Are we living with ENRICHMENT ? ? ?**