

## **Encouraged or Warned**

### **Which Do I Need?**

Comforting lesson - helps deal with discouragement

In your face - warning of need to take God more seriously

Circumstances determine which we need

### **Scripture Can Supply Either Need**

If struggling & doubting you will make heaven - need encouragement

Trust God greater than your hardships

Passages such as - **John 16:33**

If lax & overconfident problem lies in different direction - need warning

Reminder of God's wrath at disobedience

Rebuking passage such as - **Revelation 3:15-16**

Passages giving solace & security such as, **Hebrews 4:16**, Do not conflict with passages stressing reverence & responsibility, **Hebrews 12:28-29**

They address different needs

We will have both needs at different time in life

Our circumstances determine whether the Great Physician prescribes sedatives or stimulants.

We need to understand the need for both

### **Over Time Will Need A Balance Of Both.**

Learning all the Bible will help us in this regard

We need a familiarity with God's Word that allows us to turn to the needed passage for each moment.

Need to be able to turn & read proper passage for needs of others as well

### **One of the challenges in a congregation**

Judge needs of the group wisely

Present message meeting needs of group as whole, without damage to those who may need the opposite instruction

Just because the group needs encouragement as whole does not exclude need of one or more that is overconfident already.

A message of encouragement could leave him feeling that all is well

On other hand

Hellfire & Brimstone warnings to one that is already doubtful of ability to remain faithful may give feelings of inability to overcome, considering task more impossible than thought

### **What Is Answer? Need ALL Of God's Word**

Must preach & teach all of God's Word

Must carefully mix encouragement & warning

That some are better at one than the other gives good reason for attending Bible classes & Gospel Meetings & all capable men taking opportunity to teach & preach

Over time God's purposes will be accomplished - **1Corinthians 12:14-26**

Work too big for one, too important to argue over which emphasis is more important

### **Self-Application**

I probably need what I think I need the least!

Emphasis - warning - counterbalance feelings of assurance & confidence

Emphasis - encouragement - counterbalance feelings of worry & fear

Scripture that seems least likely to help may be just what I need

### **Variety Required For Spiritual Survival**

Desire deeper devotion to God?

Study Scriptures & listen to sermons you think you may not need

You will be encouraged, you will be warned, you will gain spiritual health