

"Keep on Keepin' On" (Mid-week Study, 5-27-2020)

"Keep on keepin' on" - it was so common in the 1960s in some places in America that it began to supplant "Good-bye" when people parted company. The basic thought of "Good-bye" is that your life goes well in the "bye and bye," or until we meet again. Similarly, "Keep on keepin' on" was meant for both perseverance and encouragement to keep your chin up, keep working, keep trying, keep living life in positive ways, and don't let the crazy people get you down! Everyone knew what it meant and appreciated cheerful reinforcement.

That kind of human encouragement has always been part of God's plan for His kids. Two thousand years ago the apostles had a follower from Cyprus named Joseph. He was such a profound encourager that they nicknamed him, "Barnabas", which means Son of Encouragement," (Acts 4:36). The Old Testament itself is an encouragement to New Testament Christians that we might have hope, (Romans 15:4). The next verse teaches us that God is the ultimate giver of both perseverance and encouragement. Hmmmm... sort of divine "keep on keepin' on!"

To be like Jesus, we must be encouragers (Philippians 2:1). To be fellow workers for the kingdom of God, we should be encouragers of others, (Colossians 4:12). In fact, dozens of times in both testaments we find the words "encourage and encouragement."

In Acts 27:22, in the midst of an actual ship-wreck, Paul tells the crew, "Keep up your courage!" In Colossians 3:1 Paul reminds the Christians there to, "...keep seeking the things above." Peter encourages us to, "...keep fervent in your love for one another, (I Peter 4:8) and also to "...keep on rejoicing" in 4:13. Likewise, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial," James 1:12.

Now would be a great time to ***read Romans 8:18-38***. Paul acknowledges that we will face tough times. God never sweeps adversity under the rug. Yet He gives us hope to "keep on keepin' on" because He is with us and will never abandon us. In verse 39, Jesus is the answer.

So, do not lose heart (II Corinthians 4:16). During a world war, famine or flood, drought, locust plague, or even a global viral pandemic, ***keep on keepin' on!***

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Further study: I Corinthians 4:7-18; Galatians 6:9-10