

## In a Word – Admonish – Romans 15:14

### Introduction

- The word “admonish” appears in many key verses, yet we struggle with its meaning.
  - Part of the purpose of the bible is to “admonish” us
  - Thus it is important that we understand it.

### I. Admonish Defined

- a. Admonish or admonition –
  - i. To warn or reprimand someone firmly
  - ii. Advise or urge someone earnestly
  - iii. Warn someone of something to be avoided
  - iv. To put in mind, to caution or reprove gently
- b. Note that admonishment is something we do lightly at times, firmly at others
  - i. The form of admonishment may be circumstantial
- c. The first occurrence in the NT of the word “admonish is found in Romans 15:14...

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. (Romans 15:14)

- i. Note that the ESV, RSV, NIV renders admonition as “instruct one another” (a softer word)
  - ii. One who admonishes must first be good (right attitude)
  - iii. Full of knowledge, know God’s will, know the difference between command and liberty
- d. One author describes admonishment as high-octane encouragement.
    - i. It may take the form of discipline, encouragement, or affirmation, commendation or correction. Above all, admonishment is truth spoken during a difficult circumstance.
  - e. Admonition or admonishment when used in the form of a warning, is shared to prevent harm to another.
    - i. Warning against the hazards in life (don’t drive too fast, watch for snakes)
    - ii. In the bible, admonishment warns us about the hazards in our spiritual life

### II. Admonishment in the Old Testament

- a. When considering admonition as a warning, the OT is filled with God’s warnings
  - i. Though the actual word is used only a few times

“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! (Psalm 81:8)

- ii. God is in the business of admonishing His people, but He doesn't do it just be authoritarian. Most warnings are given as a father would warn a child.

“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today... (Deuteronomy 8:11)

- iii. This passage goes on to describe the rich blessings of material wealth that Israel would experience (in food, houses, livestock, silver, gold), but then a final warning...

Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. (Deuteronomy 8:19)

- iv. God's warning could very well be applied to America today!
- b. Not only did God warn His people as a whole, but to individuals as well.

(12) And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh. (13) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (14) For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:12–14)

- c. David was admonished by Nathan ( 2 Samuel 12) he would be troubled because of sin
- d. Admonition by the prophets (the word “woe”) in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah
- e. “WOE” — deep sorrow, grief, or affliction. The word “woe” is often used by the Old Testament prophets, as an exclamation expressing dismay or misfortune.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20)

Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink... (Isaiah 5:22)

Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, To the oppressing city! (Zephaniah 3:1)

- i. Jesus used the word on the scribes, Pharisees, and lawyers (Luke 11:42–44)
- f. Leaving the Old Testament, let's look at admonition in the New testament.

### III. Admonishment in the New Testament

- a. After the first appearance of the word in Romans 15:14, the word occurs some 8 times in the NKJV ; Admonition - 3 ; Admonish – 5

#### b. Admonishment in worship

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

- i. Most bible versions use the word “admonish” in this verse (including the NIV)
- ii. Since the word “teaching” (instructing) is conjoined with the word, we may conclude that we are to “warn” each other through song.
  - 1. “O be careful little eyes...”
  - 2. “Angry words O let them never from my tongue unbridled slip.”
  - 3. “Come to Jesus, do not tarry. O delay not till the morrow, lest thy coming be too late.”
  - 4. “Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin.”
- c. There is admonishment in worship.

**d. Admonishment by Church Leadership**

(12) And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, (13) and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves. (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13)

- i. We are instructed and warned by the eldership
- ii. Also through preaching (Paul’s encouragement to the Ephesian elders)

Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:31)

- iii. Paul’s instruction to Timothy...

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke (admonish), exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

- iv. Admonition is to be part of balanced preaching. There must be both edification and warning.

For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed. (2 Corinthians 10:8)

- v. Ephesians 4:11-12 – God gave some to be apostles, evangelist, pastors, teachers, all for the edifying of the body of Christ.
- e. Admonishment must be applied by church leadership.

**f. Admonishment of the Unruly**

(13) But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. (14) And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (15) Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (2 Thessalonians 3:13–15)

- i. The most difficult admonition of all. Do we leave this up to the leadership?
- ii. Don't we warn our children of hazards and danger?
- g. The gentleness of this admonishment is seen in warning one as a member of your own family, or a loved one.
- h. There are times when admonition must be done with firmness.

(9) But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. (10) Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, (11) knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (Titus 3:9–11)

- i. To preserve peace within the church, divisive people must be dealt with. We never want to “kick” someone out of the church.
- ii. What could be the result of failure to deal with such a person?
- i. Admonishment is part of the discipline process.

#### **IV. The Last Word**

- a. No one likes to be corrected, scolded, or even warned if done in an uncaring way.
  - i. Elders and preachers need to be wise and teach the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15)
  - ii. Admonishment has its place in the church, otherwise God would not have directed it.
  - iii. However, just because we're encouraged to admonish each other doesn't mean we are to constantly warning each other.
  - iv. We will finish where we started...

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. (Romans 15:14)