The Doctrine of Exhortation

I. Introduction & Definition
   A. Greek Vocabulary: παράκαλέω #3870: to implore, exhort, comfort, encourage. (109x)
      1. παρακαλέω #3870: to implore, exhort, comfort, encourage. (109x)
      2. συµπαρακαλέω #4837: to exhort together, comfort with others. (1x: Rom. 1:12)
      3. παράκλησις #3874: exhortation, comfort, encouragement. (29x)
   B. English Vocabulary:
      1. Implore: to call upon in supplication: beseech; to call or pray for earnestly: entreat.
      2. Exhort: to incite by argument or advice: urge strongly.
      3. Comfort: to give strength and hope to: cheer; to ease the grief or trouble of: console.
      4. Encourage: to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope: hearten; to spur on: stimulate.
   C. The basic idea of παρακαλέω is to come alongside. Whether the person is imploring, exhorting, comforting, or encouraging, they are coming alongside another person in order to minister.
   D. Although an exhortation can parallel a command (2 Thess. 3:12), it is generally given instead of a command (Philem. 8-10).

II. The Work of God as our Exhorter, Comforter, Encourager.
   A. God the Father is our provision of παράκλησις (2 Cor. 1:3-7; 2 Thess. 2:16,17).
   C. Jesus Christ is our heavenly παράκλητος (1st Jn. 2:1).

III. The Word of God as our Exhorter, Comforter, Encourager (Rom. 15:4,5).
   A. As it is written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 12:5 (Prov. 3:11,12); 13:22).
   B. As it is taught by faithful Pastors/Evangelists (Lk. 3:18; Acts 4:36; 11:23; 13:15; 15:31,32; 20:1,2; 1st Thess. 2:3,11; 1st Tim. 4:13; 6:2; 2nd Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:9; 2:15; 1st Pet. 5:12).
   C. As the fellowship of the Word encourages reciprocally (Rom. 1:12; 2nd Cor. 1:3-7; 2:7,8; 7:4-7,13; 1st Thess. 4:18; 5:11,14; Heb. 3:13; 10:25).
   D. As good reports are received from other geographical locations (Eph. 6:22; Col. 4:8; 1st Thess. 3:2).
   E. Spiritually gifted believers as exhorters, comforters, encouragers (Rom. 12:8 cf. the an exhorting role of NT prophets 1 Cor. 14:3,31).

IV. Subjects for New Testament Exhortation
   A. Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).
   B. Strive together with me in your prayers (Rom. 15:30; 1st Tim. 2:1).
   C. Keep an eye on, and turn away from those who cause dissensions (Rom. 16:17).
   D. You all agree, and be made complete (1st Cor. 1:10; Phil. 4:2).
   E. Be imitators of faithful spiritual leaders (1st Cor. 4:16), and be in subjection to them (1st Cor. 16:15,16).
   F. Walk in a manner worthy of your calling (Eph. 4:1).
   G. Excel still more (1st Thess. 4:1,10).
   H. Admonish, encourage, help, & be patient (1st Thess. 5:14).
   I. Work in order to eat (2nd Thess. 3:10-15).
   J. For sensible youth (Tit. 2:6).
   K. Abstain from fleshly lusts (1st Pet. 2:11).
   L. Contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3).