



## Encouraging Others

Ephesians 3:14-21; Romans 1:11

Hebrews 10:25 "...but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

On my wall, above my desk, at home are taped several cards and notes that I have received in the mail over last several months. They are there as reminders or friends, family members, and loved ones who took a minute to write a little note or a few words of encouragement. Every so often, I re-read them, encouraged by their words. I thank God for the people who sent them and pray God's blessing upon them.

As I write this, I realize I should do better at writing my friends and loved ones. All too often, I find myself caught up in the cares of everyday living, working full-time plus trying to be the best mother I can be to Amy and Melissa and the best wife possible to Wilbur.

Isn't it interesting that the author of Hebrews realized hundreds of years ago that all of us need encouragement. Note he says, "as you see the Day approaching." Surely we are living near that time, the Day when Christ returns to earth.

Sometime ago I was talking to my mother about writing *Thoughts to Ponder*, stating it was one way I could keep in touch with the people attending The Wesleyan Church in Lehigh. She reminded me that many books of The New Testament were written by Paul while he was away, away in prison, from the ones he was writing to. Had he not been in prison those books may have never been written. Did he realize the impact they would have on the world and that they would last through the ages? Much of what he wrote were words of encouragement. *"And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."* (II Thessalonians 3:13) But surely being in prison must have been discouraging. *"I long to see you..."* (Romans 1:11) I know I plan to do better at encouraging others. How about you?

### Ephesians 3

14. For this reason I kneel before the Father,
15. from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.
16. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
17. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
18. may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
19. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
20. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen