

ENCOURAGING WORDS

Ephesians 6:21-24

**We all need encouraging words and each of us
can offer words of encouragement to others.**

I. LET ME INFORM YOU (21-22)

- Keeping up.

A. THE MESSAGE: What is being communicated?

1. Paul's Particulars: Making everything known to you (21b)
 - a. Circumstances: The things going on around me
 - b. Ministry: The things being done by me
2. Paul's Partners: That you might know about us (22b)
 - a. At least eight others were a part of Paul's team at this time
 - b. See Col. 4:7-14 where the details are recorded

B. THE MESSENGER: Tychicus

1. The beloved brother
2. A faithful minister
 - a. Carrier of the Ephesian and Colossian letters and the letter to Philemon - See Col. 4:7-8
 - b. One capable and qualified to transfer Onesimus to Philemon - see Col. 4:7-9 and Philemon 10
 - c. The one later sent to Ephesus for a second time - II Tim. 4:12

C. THE MOTIVES: Why the need to write?

1. So you'll know (21a)
2. So you'll be comforted (22b)
3. So you'll pray effectively (19)

D. SOME MUSINGS (Application)

1. Do we share what's really going on?
2. Do we care enough to inform?
 - Using and being dependable messengers
3. Do we dare ask people to pray for us?
4. Are we aware that sheep need a flock?
 - That's how sheep survive and thrive.

II. LET ME INSPIRE YOU (23-24)

- Keep going!

A. RECOGNIZE WHAT YOU HAVE

1. You have Christ! (23)
 - These are believing brethren
2. You have passion! (24)
 - These were fervent, fired up and energetic in their love for Christ
3. We can encourage people by reminding them of what they have.

B. REALIZE WHAT YOU NEED

1. You need peace (23a)
 - a. The primary request: Peace
 - 1) Be right with God - Rom. 5:1
 - 2) Be resting in God - Acts 9:31
 - 3) Be relying on God - Phil. 4:6-7
 - b. The secondary request: Love with faith
2. You need grace (24a)
 - a. Showing a favor - See 4:29
 - b. Knowing His favor - See 2:5 and I Peter 5:10
 - c. Giving Him thanks - I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 9:15; Heb. 12:28

CONCLUSION:

As Paul is completing his last missionary journey, his ship stops at Miletus where he calls for the Ephesian elders to come and meet him. He knows it will be the last time they see him.

"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. – Acts 20:25

Paul never saw them again ... but he wrote!

- And when he wrote he informed and inspired them.

Who is waiting to hear from you?

1. Do they need to be informed about you?
2. Do they need to be inspired by you?
3. Do they need to be informed and inspired by you?

May each of us offer all of those around us encouraging words.