

## 1 PETER 5:12-14

## BE AN ENCOURAGER

<sup>12</sup> *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.* <sup>13</sup> *She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.* <sup>14</sup> *Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

In English usage, the verb *to encourage* can convey 3 different meanings. The first is to give someone hope or confidence. The second is to urge somebody to do something. And the third is to foster something (*Encarta Dictionary: English*). Peter's letter has fulfilled all three definitions when it comes to proclaiming God's grace; and therefore, verse 12 has been seen as the statement of his purpose in writing the letter.

Is this not what all Christians are called to do? As resident aliens, Kingdom citizens in a fallen world, we need each other. There are times when we struggle with what is going on around us and the defeats that we experience in everyday life. It is then that we rely on the community of believers to give us hope and confidence. When it comes to being steadfast in our faith and to make the right decisions we need another believer to urge us to do what is right in God's eyes. As we are confronted by false statements about God and his Gospel, it is the body of believers that commends to us the faith received through the millennia.

During the coming week, as you interact with others, be an encourager. Make it your goal to give someone else true hope and confidence; to urge another to do what is obedient to God's will; and to commend the faith to all you meet.

**God of peace, through the blood of the eternal covenant you brought back from the dead my Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip me with everything good for doing your will. Begin by instilling in my heart the desire to encourage those around me in the ways of your kingdom. Amen.**