

fellowship, Paul planned to send him to minister to the Philippians and learn how they were doing. He chose Timothy because all others focused on themselves rather than on Christ (2:21). A good report from him would encourage Paul (v.19).

Epaphroditus was also a man who practiced selfless encouragement. He was a representative from the Philippian church. While visiting and helping Paul he had become sick and nearly died. His greatest concern was not over his own critical illness, but that his home church had heard about it and he didn't want them to be unduly distressed (v.26).

We see in Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus the secret of true encouragement--self-giving without self-pity. It is clearly self-forgetfulness.

Do you want to be an encouraging Christian? Remember, the ultimate source of encouragement is not people but God. Go to Him for fresh encouragement--then go out and encourage others. --JEY

*It may seem insignificant
To say a word or two,
But when it is encouragement,
What wonders it can do! --K. De Haan*

Even if you have nothing else to give, you can give encouragement.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

MARCH 25, 2018

Encouraging People

**... that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. --
Philippians 2:19**

Encouraging others is a vital ministry. But Paul's letter to the Philippians illustrates that it can also be costly.

Even though he was sitting in prison and benefiting from Timothy's



Insights for Living
Discovering Epaphroditus



With Epaphroditus as our model, each of us should be lead to reset our hearts in three ways:

1. Set our hearts to _____, 2:3-4, 5-8, 20-22, 25

(2 Timothy 2:3) "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

(2 Timothy 2:4) No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."



2. Set our hearts to _____, verses 26-28



3. Set our heart to be _____, verses 30, 29, 24, 19, 25



Who would risk helping persecuted Nigerian Christians?