

## Reflections on October 2013 Readings

Wonderful quotes from the **Book of Hebrews** that we can ponder awhile:

- \* *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today—and forever! (13:8)*
- \* *Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for God has said, “I will never leave you or abandon you.” (13:5)*
- \* *Therefore, having so vast a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, and throwing off everything that hinders us, let us keep running with endurance the race set before us, looking to Jesus, the Founder and Finisher of the faith, who endured the cross, disregarding its shame, for the joy now set before him, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (12:1-2)*
- \* *For the Word of God is living and active. It is sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow, as it judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart. No creature can hide from him. Everything is naked and helpless before the eyes of the one to whom we must give an account.(4:12-13)*
- \* *Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. (3:4)*
- \* *Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...” (3:7-8a) Instead, continue to encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (3:13)*

Years ago I learned the **Book of James** by heart, five powerful chapters. When I shared a portion of it at the International Storytellers’ festival, a longtime pastor and avid storyteller, remarked that he hadn’t realized how many wonderful Scriptures this small Book contains. Among the best known (not mentioned in the October newsletter) are:

- \* *Be doers of the Word, and not just hearers. (1:22)*
- \* *Wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure, then peace-loving, gentle, willing to yield, full of compassion and good fruits, and without a trace of partiality. (3:17)*
- \* *You don’t get things because you don’t ask for them. Or you ask for something but don’t get it because you ask for the wrong reason—for your own pleasure.(4:2b-3)*
- \* *Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil and he will run from you. (4:7)*
- \* *Humble yourself before the Lord and he will exalt you.(4:10)*
- \* *Anyone who knows what is right and fails to do it is guilty of sin. (4:17)*
- \* *Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Stop complaining about each other...Look! The Judge is standing at the door! (5:8-9)*
- \* *Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no. (5:12b)*
- \* *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (5:16b)*