

THE CHURCH ON OFFENSE IN CONFLICTED DAYS

FALL/WINTER 2020/2021

“ENGAGING THE CONFLICT WITH THE STRATEGIC WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE”

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

ACTS 19, 20:17-38 and other selected support Scriptures

Christian Unity (Closing Summary) – Eph 2:19-22

- I. Review of Paul’s preparation of the Ephesians - Ac 20:17-38
 - A. *He held back nothing that was PROFITABLE* v. 20
 - B. *He testified that the gospel was about REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD and FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. That means that they would have to change their mind about who the Sovereign One was and put their trust in the Son of the Sovereign One, the Lord Jesus Christ* v. 27
 - C. *He testified of the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD* v. 24
 - D. *The main focus of his preaching was PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.* v. 25
 - E. *He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD.*
- II. A Prayer for God’s people to Experience the Fullness of God – Eph 3:14-21
 - A. The Spirit’s Power – vs 14-16
 1. For this reason
 - a. Transition from doctrinal to practical
 - b. A New Identity in Christ
 - i. Made alive in Christ – Eph 2:5
 - ii. His workmanship - Eph 2:10
 - iii. No longer strangers, aliens; fellow citizens, part of God’s household - Eph 2:19
 - iv. Built of foundation of prophets and apostles - Eph 2:20
 - v. Built together into dwelling of God - Eph 2:22
 2. Paul’s prayer that God would empower them to live according to who they are “in Christ”
 - a. I bow my knees
 - i. not speaking of body position, scripture shows people praying in a variety of positions
 - ii. represents an attitude of submission, a recognition of being in the presence of higher rank, dignity, and authority
 - iii. the position is used in times of intense passion or emotion – Ez 9:5-6; Dan 6:10; Ac 20:36
 - b. to the Father - the same way Christ generally addressed God both
 - i. in prayer
 - ii. in reference to
 3. from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

- a. doesn't teach the universal fatherhood of all men as many liberal theologians teach and many unbelievers believe
- b. Scripture clearly teaches two fatherhoods,
 - i. of God – Jo 1:12; 1 Jo 3:10;
 - ii. and of Satan – Jo 8:39-42, 44
- c. refers to the saints of every age
 - i. in heaven – believing Israelites of the old covenant; NT believers who have fallen asleep
 - ii. on earth – those believers still alive
- 4. The first request - that He would grant you,
 - a. according to the riches of His glory,
 - i. giving done “according to” means the more one has, the more they can give
 - ii. b/c God's riches are limitless, “according to” means much more than “out of”
 - iii. His Glory – the riches belong to God b/c of who He is
 - b. to be strengthened with might - to live lives that correspond to the spiritual wealth that we have in Christ
 - i. through His Spirit – walking according to the law of the Spirit – Ro 8:2, walking in- Ga 5:16,25, being filled with – Eph 5:18ff, participating in the divine nature – 2 Pet 1:4
 - ii. in the inner man,
 - the outer man is perishing, but the inner man is being renewed day by day – Ro 12:2; 2 Co 4:16; Col 3:16
 - the inner man is the fulfillment of the New covenant promises – Jer 31:31-34; Eze 11:19-20; 36:26-27
 - the inner man is the regenerated part where we experience the shared life of Christ – Eph 4:24; Col 3:10

B. Christ's Indwelling – vs 17a

- 1. that – gives the purpose of being strengthened with might through His Spirit
- 2. Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
 - a. Order seems reversed – faith brings Christ to indwell believers – 2 Co 13:5; Col 1:27
 - b. *katoikeo* - to house permanently, reside, dwell(-er), inhabitant(-ter).
 - i. Being at home, settled in, similar to Jo 15:1-5
 - ii. Deals more with the **quality** of His presence than the fact of it
 - c. Through faith – the continuing practice of the faith that saved – 2 Co 5:7

C. Love's Abundance – vs 17b-19a

- 1. The result of being strengthened by the Spirit and submitting to Christ's lordship in us is love
 - a. that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
 - i. *agape* – an attitude of selflessness, a matter of will, not feelings or emotion
 - ii. the basis for the first and second greatest commandment – Mt 22:37-39
 - the expected attitude from God of His children toward one another – 1 Jo 3:14, 17; 4:20-21

- the proof of salvation before a lost world – Jo 13:35
- b. requires being rooted and grounded in God – experiential, intimate knowledge – Col 1:23; 2:7
- 2. The result of the above - may be able to comprehend
 - a. This kind of love, as well as the life that comes from experiencing it, cannot be understood until it is experienced by being immersed in it
 - b. with all the saints – all are expected to grow and experience this love
 - c. what is the width and length and depth and height - to understand the fullness of love, its vastness, completeness
- 3. to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
 - a. *huperballo* - to throw beyond the usual mark, to surpass, exceeding, excel, pass.
 - b. Isa 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

D. God's Fullness – vs 19b

- 1. As one is strengthened in the inner man by the Spirit, it leads to the settled in life of Christ, which leads to abundant love being experienced and shared, which leads to being filled with the fullness of God
- 2. *pleroo* - to make replete, to cram (a net), level up (a hollow), or to furnish (or imbue, diffuse, influence), satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), accomplish, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfil, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.
 - a. Speaks of total dominance - By definition – to be emptied of self
 - b. A reoccurring theme
 - i. Here – the fullness of God
 - ii. 4:13 – the fullness of Christ
 - iii. 5:18 – the fullness of the Spirit

E. The Lord's Glory – vs 20-21

- 1. The culmination of all that God has prepared for His children – a doxology - Now to Him
- 2. When the above is true in us, we get to experience God
 - a. who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,
 - b. God is only limited in what He does for us by what we believe He can and will do on our behalf
 - i. Jo 14:12-14 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.
 - ii. There is no situation where the Lord cannot use us as we are submitted to Him
 - c. according to the power that works in us,
 - i. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is the power that works in us

- ii. The power of the Spirit acting on us and through us
 - Ro 15:3 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
 - 2Co 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 - 2Co 13:4 For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.
 - Php 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
 - Col 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;
 - Col 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving (agonizing) according to His working (energy) which works (energizes) in me mightily.
 - 2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- d. to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.