

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

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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

I. A 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.

E. He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD.

II. Off with the Old, On with the New - Eph 4:17-24

A. Intro:

1. This I say, therefore,

a. Refers back to what Paul had said in vs 1-16

b. Paul’s exhortation to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

2. and testify in the Lord,

a. forsaking sin and following righteousness was not a whim of Paul

b. he is explaining the essence of the Gospel

B. The Walk of the Old

1. that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,

a. **ethnos** - a race (as of the same habit), a tribe; a foreign (non-Jewish) one (pagan), Gentile, heathen, nation, people.

b. Used by the Jews in two ways

i. Referring to all other people groups other than Jews

ii. Distinguishes all other religions from Judaism

iii. Paul’s usage in 1Th 4:5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles **who do not know God;**

c. For the Ephesians

i. Worshipped Artemis or Diana

ii. Worshipped in every sort of perversion, debauchery and sexual immorality

iii. Ranked as most lascivious city in Asia Minor

2. Intellectually Futile – vs 17

a. The basic issues of life-style centers in the mind

i. Understanding and ignorance – vs 18

ii. Learning and teaching – vs 20-21

iii. Mind and truth – vs 23-24

iv. This is why one of the first steps in repentance is a change of mind about oneself, one’s spiritual condition, and about God

b. b/c Christians are and think differently, therefore they act differently –

- i. Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.
 - ii. Pr 23:7a For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.
 - c. in the futility of their mind,
 - i. *mataiotes* - inutility; transientness; morally, depravity, vanity.
 - ii. Refers to that which fails to produce the desired result, that which never succeeds
 - iii. The unbeliever is bound up in his thinking and acting in an arena of ultimate trivia
 - They plan and resolve everything on the basis of their own thinking
 - He becomes his own authority
- 3. Ignorant of God's Truth – vs 18
 - a. having their understanding darkened
 - i. *skotizo* - to obscure, darken.
 - ii. Perf. Part. - indicating a continuing condition of spiritual darkness
 - iii. Implies both ignorance and immorality
 - b. being alienated from the life of God
 - i. because of the ignorance that is in them
 - darkened understanding coupled with exclusion from the life of God
 - referring back to vs 17
 - ii. because of the blindness of their heart;
 - willful determination to remain in sin
 - i. because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. - Ro 1:21
 - ii. Professing to be wise, they became fools, - Ro 1:22
 - *porosis* - stupidity or callousness, blindness, hardness.
 - i. Carries the idea of being rock hard
 - ii. Used to describe the calcification of broken bones where it becomes harder than the bone itself
- 4. Spiritually and Morally Calloused – vs 19a
 - a. When people continue in sin, like any activity, it creates callouses
 - b. who, being past feeling,
 - i. both to the reality and the consequences of sin
 - ii. will endure anything to be able to continue in it rather than admit it is wrong
 - iii. sins once hidden become those that are excused or indulged in openly
- 5. Depraved in Mind – vs 19b; Ro 1:24,26,28
 - a. The above leads to total abandonment
 - b. have given themselves over to lewdness
 - i. *aselgeia* – filthy, lasciviousness, wantonness, licentiousness (sometimes including other vices).
 - ii. Refers to the absence of moral restraint
 - Disposition of the soul incapable of the pain of discipline
 - Unbridled self-indulgence

- c. to work all uncleanness with greediness.
 - i. **ergasia** - occupation, profit, pains, craft, diligence, gain, work.
 - ii. **pleonexia** - avarice, fraudulency, extortion, covetousness practices, greediness.

C. The Walk of the New

1. Christ Centered – vs 20

- a. But you have not so learned Christ,
 - i. A direct reference to salvation
 - ii. The direct infusion of what is necessary so that one may think and act correctly
- b. **manthano** - to learn (in any way), learn, understand.
 - i. Can be used to refer to the step-by-step process of learning
 - ii. Aorist, Active, ind. - which is used as a one-time act in Jo 6:45; Mt 11:29

2. Knowing God's Truth – vs 21

- a. Instead of being ignorant of God's truth the believer has
 - i. heard Him and been taught by Him, - refers to the hearing of the spiritual call
 - ii. both verbs are aorist pointing to a one-time event in the past
 - iii. refers to the moment of salvation
- b. as the truth is in Jesus:
 - i. first – the truth about salvation
 - ii. second – it leads to the fullness of truth about God, man, creation, history, sin, righteousness, grace, faith, salvation, life, death, purpose, meaning, relationships, heaven, hell, judgment, eternity, and everything else that has ultimate consequences

3. Delivered from the Old

- a. Paul uses three infinitives summarizing what they heard and were taught in Jesus
- b. These describe the saving truth in Jesus, not imperatives for the believer
- c. though men do hear, believe, and lay aside through the sanctification process that brings about in practice what God has already done

4. 1st Infinitive – vs 22,

- a. that you put off,
 - i. **apotithemi** - to put away, cast off, lay apart (aside, down), put away (off).
 - ii. Aorist middle voice, indicating a once and forever action done to the believer at salvation
 - iii. 4 aorist verbs describing the facts of salvation - Col 3:1-10
 - For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God – vs 3
 - you were raised with Christ – vs 1
 - you have put off the old man with his deeds, - vs 9
 - and have put on the new man – vs 10
 - iv. Romans 6 version
 - we who died to sin – vs 2
 - we “were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death” – vs 3
 - we were buried with Him through baptism into death – vs 4
 - we have been united together in the likeness of His death - vs 5

- our old man was crucified with Him – vs 6
 - that the body of sin might be done away with – vs 6
 - he who has died – vs 7
 - we died with Christ - vs 8
 - 8 of the 9 verbs were aorist
 - 1 was perfect indicating it was a result of salvation
 - Paul’s exhortation in 12-23 is given on the basis of the complete transformation of the believer at conversion
- b. concerning your former conduct – the behavior as listed in B. above
 - c. the old man - the unconverted nature
 - d. which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts
 - i. pres. passive – increasingly
 - ii. deceit – controlled by
5. Becoming the New – vs 23-24
- a. 2nd Infinitive – vs 23
 - i. and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
 - ii. a continual activity
 - a work of grace done by God – 2 Co 4:16
 - can be enhanced as we are in the word - Ro 12:2
 - iii. **ananeoo** - to renovate, reform, renew.
 - b. 3rd Infinitive - vs 24
 - i. A corollary of being renewed in the spirit of your mind
 - ii. and that you put on the new man
 - which was created according to God
 - in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians is broken down into 2 sections

Chapters 1-3 speaks to what salvation has done in a person

Chapters 4-6 speaks to the practical outworking of what salvation has done in a person

Since you have put off the old and put on the new, understand who you are and live accordingly