

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

February 10, 2021

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

J. *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. *Walking in Love - Eph 5:1-7*

A. *The Exhortation – vs 1-2a*

1. *Walk in love*

a. *A key matter in Paul’s writings*

b. *Ours is to be different from the world’s*

i. *worthy of the calling with which you were called, - 4:1*

ii. *as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, - 4:17*

iii. *as children of light – 5:8*

iv. *in wisdom – 5:15*

c. *such a walk fulfills God’s law – Ro 13:8-10*

2. *Therefore*

a. *refers back to the last part of chapter 4, esp. vs 32*

b. *Kindness, tender-heartedness, forgiveness are characteristics of God who is Love*

3. *be imitators of God*

a. ***mimetes** – an imitator, follower.*

b. *where we get the word “Mimic” – someone who copies specific characteristics of another person*

c. *as imitators of God, we are to imitate His characteristics,*

i. *the highest is love - Mt 5:45-46; Col 3:12-14*

- *the way Christ loved us and commanded of us – Jo 13:34; 1Jo 3:23; 4:21*

- *the purpose of the commandment 1Ti 1:5;*

- *It covers a multitude of sin - 1Pe 4:8;*

ii. *Mercy is another – Lu 6:36;*

iii. *perfection - Mt 5:48;*

iv. *holiness – 1 Pet 1:15-16*

4. *as dear children*

a. *natural children have their parent’s nature and instinctively imitate their parent’s actions and behavior*

b. *as God’s children,*

- i. we have the right to be called by faith in Christ – Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26
- ii. we have been predestined to adoption as sons – Eph 1:5
- iii. we have eternal life – Jo 3:16
- iv. because we have been born of Him - Jo 1:13
 - we are to forgive, b/c He forgives – Eph 4:32
 - we are to be humble, b/c He humbled Himself – Phil 2:5-9
 - this is not natural, but supernatural requiring a new nature and the power of the Holy Spirit

B. The Model – vs 2b

- 1. as Christ also has loved us
 - a. is the model that we are supposed to imitate
 - b. *agape* – not an emotional feeling, but an act of the will
 - c. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. - 2Co 3:18
- 2. and given Himself for us
 - a. proof of His love for us both
 - i. in His service - the washing of His disciples’ feet - Jo 13:12-16,34
 - ii. and His death
 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Ro 5:8
 - For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. - Ro 5:10
 - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. - 1Jo 3:16
 - b. an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
 - i. 1st five chapters of Lev describe 5 offerings
 - 1st three were burnt offering, meal offering, and peace offering
 - All spoke of Christ in His ministry
 - i. They were well pleasing to God
 - ii. they were described as “a soothing aroma to the Lord”
 - iii. meaning acceptable or well pleasing
 - ii. Other 2 were sin offerings and trespass offerings

C. The Perversion – vs 3-4

- 1. Whatever God establishes, Satan will pervert and counterfeit
- 2. The Contrast between Godly love and the counterfeit
 - a. Godly love – self-giving
 - b. the counterfeit
 - i. self-serving and destructive
 - ii. always conditional and self-centered
- 3. let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints
 - a. There is no justification for believers to be involved in these sins

- b. **porneia** - harlotry (including adultery and incest); idolatry, fornication
 - i. refers to all sexual sin
 - ii. opposite of **enkrateia** which refers to self-control esp. in the area of sex
- c. **akatharsia** - impurity (the quality), physically or morally, uncleanness.
 - i. Loss of sexual self-control leads to its opposite
 - ii. A more general term than **porneia**
 - iii. Refers to anything unclean and filthy
 - iv. Jesus used it to describe rottenness of decaying flesh – Mt 23:27
- d. **pleonexia** - avarice, fraudulency, extortion, covetous(-ness) practices, greediness.
 - i. As in Eph 4:19, greed is inseparable from sexual sin
 - ii. This counterfeit love is hate, because of the damage that it does to both to
 - the individual - 1Co 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.
 - those affected by adultery, divorce, and disregarded
- e. **aischrotes** - shamefulness, obscenity, filthiness.
 - i. Deals with general obscenity
 - ii. Comes from the Greek word meaning disgraceful
 - iii. Paul writes in vs 12, believers should not be mentioned or participated in
- f. **morologia** - silly talk, buffoonery, foolish talking.
 - i. Used only here in NT
 - ii. Made of two words meaning to speak and dull or stupid, (from where we get moron)
- g. **eutrapelia** - (meaning well-turned, ready at repartee, jocose); witticism, (in a vulgar sense) ribaldry, jesting.
 - i. More pointed and determined talk
 - ii. Carries the idea of turning something innocent into something obscene or suggestive

4. That which believers should be involved

- a. which are not fitting – the above
- b. but rather giving of thanks –
 - i. Mt 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.
 - ii. Ro 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;
 - iii. an expression of unselfishness
 - iv. not practiced extensively by unbelievers b/c they believe they deserve more

D. The Punishment – vs 5-7

- 1. For this you know – there should be no doubt or confusion
- 2. Those characterized by the sins in vs 3-4, has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. - 1Co 6:9; Ga 5:19,21; Re 22:15

- a. More than selfish and immoral, it is idolatry – Col 3:5
 - b. Not dealing with a fall into an old habit
 - c. Dealing with habitual pattern of life indicating that one does not know God
 - i. Contradicts truth of Ro 6; 2 Cor 5:17
 - ii. The new can't live in sin as a way of life – 1 Jo 3:9-10
 - d. The kingdom is the rule of Christ and God of which believers have an inheritance
3. Let no one deceive you with empty words,
- a. Empty words
 - i. Full of error, devoid of truth,
 - ii. Therefore, deceptive
 - iii. Col 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.
 - iv. Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
 - v. Col 2:18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
 - b. for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience
 - i. God's attitude about sexual sins among God's people is clear – Num 25:1-9
 - ii. Sons of disobedience – Eph 2:2
 - Their nature is to disobey
 - Called children of wrath – Eph 2:3
 - Targets of God's wrath – 2Th 1:8-10 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.
 - c. Therefore, do not be partakers with them.