

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

**February 10, 2021**

## **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. *A Personal Walk with God - Eph 5:18-21*

A. *Being Empowered*

1. *Drunk with Wine*

a. *Scripture always condemns drunkenness*

i. *By example – Noah, Lot, Belshazzar*

ii. *By Admonition*

- *Proverbs 20:1; 23:19-21, 29-33, 35*

- *Isaiah 5:11, 22; 28:7-8*

iii. *Listed as one of many sins of unbelievers*

- *Especially associated with sexual immorality – Gal 5:19-23*

- *One of the sins of the Gentiles that believers should forsake – 1 Pet 4:3*

- *One of the sins of those that are of the night – 1 Th 5:6-8*

- *Believers shouldn’t associate with a so-called brother involved in it - 1 Co 5:11*

b. *Paul’s concern in this passage is religious, not moral*

i. *Drunkenness was common in many forms of idolatrous worship of which the Ephesians would have been very familiar*

ii. *Guidelines for Christians*

- *1 Co 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

- *1 Co 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.*

- *1 Co 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*

- *1 Co 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

c. *Consequences of the Influence of wine*

i. *Wine (Alcohol) doesn’t control a person*

- Drunk – *methusko* - to intoxicate (to lose control of their faculties or behavior), be drunk(-en)
  - Dissipation – *asotia* - unsavedness, profligacy (reckless extravagance or wastefulness in the use of resources), excess, riot.
  - ii. Drunkenness allows what is in one’s heart to be seen, b/c they are released from their inhibitions
2. The Command
- a. Filled with the Spirit
    - i. The work of the Spirit among OT saints
      - Came upon believers for certain service
      - Could leave – King Saul; Ps 51
    - ii. The Ministry of the Spirit among NT saints
      - Promised part of the New Covenant – Jer 31:31-33; Eze 11:19; 36:25-27
      - Promised by Jesus – Jo 14-16
      - Came at Pentecost – Ac 2
      - Places (Baptizes) believers into the body of Christ – 1 Co 12:13
      - Is the Divine Guarantee that God will finish the process of salvation - 2Co 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30,
      - Indwells believers – Jo 14:16-17; Ro 8:9
      - Gifts believers for the purpose of ministry – 1 Co 12:1-(13)
    - iii. The command is given as a contrast to drunkenness
  - b. The Meaning
    - i. What it is not
      - #1 - A dramatic, esoteric experience as in a second blessing where one is advanced into a state of spirituality
      - #2 A self-effort of trying to do what God wants us to, obedience
      - #3 Being possessed or indwelt
      - #4 A process of progressively receiving Him by degrees
      - #5 Baptism – sometimes related to #1
      - #6 Sealing
    - ii. What it is
      - Translates the Pres. Pass. Imp. of *pleroo*
        - i. *pleroo* – used in a variety of ways
          1. wind filling a sail to move a boat –
          2. used of salt permeating meat to flavor or preserve
          3. used of being under the influence of an emotion
        - ii. Imp. indicates a command - Rendered “be being kept filled”
        - iii. Pres. indicates continuously - Involves day by day, moment by moment submission
        - iv. Pass. Indicates it is not something we do, but allow to be done is us
      - Even after salvation, a Christian cannot fulfill God’s will of doing righteously w/o the power of the Holy Spirit

- i. Ro 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.
  - ii. Ro 8:10-11 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
  - iii. The command reminds us that we are subject to divine authority and are called to obedience,
    - 1. For some, just being in the kingdom is sufficient and is reflected in their manner of living
    - 2. No where in scripture is this teaching given validity
    - 3. Fulfilling God's purpose (Spiritual fruitfulness) is the directive
- The life and power of God enabling the believer to do that which God calls him to do – Acts 1:6; Ro 8:11, 13;
- c. The Means
  - i. God provides for all that He asks, we don't need to ask for that which is already provided for
  - ii. Requires Humility
    - Involves confession of sin,
    - Surrender of will, Death to self
      - i. Intellect – trying to reason why or why not
      - ii. Body, time, talent, possessions, and desires
  - iii. Equated with Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly"
  - iv. Things that happen when filled with the Spirit
    - We become transformed in our thinking – Ro 12:2; and we are renewed in the spirit of your mind - Eph 4:23
    - the eyes of our understanding are enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, - Eph 1:18
    - we find out what is acceptable to the Lord. - Eph 5:10
    - Therefore, we are not unwise, but we understand what the will of the Lord is. - Eph 5:17
    - as obedient children, not conforming ourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; - 1Pe 1:14
  - v. to be filled with the Spirit is to live in the consciousness of the presence of the Lord, to let His thinking dominate ours, to yield ourselves to do what He desires

## B. Consequences Toward with Ourselves

### 1. Singing - Speaking

#### a. Psalms

- i. Primarily refers to OT psalms put to music
- ii. Also used of vocal music of any kind

- iii. Usually serves to exalt God
- b. Hymns
  - i. Primarily refers to songs of praise
  - ii. Usually serves to praise the Lord Jesus Christ
- c. Spiritual songs – songs of testimony that cover a broad category of subjects
- d. Singing
  - i. *ado* – to sing with the voice
  - ii. in the NT, always used in relation to praising God
- e. making melody
  - i. *psallo* - to twitch or twang, to play on a stringed instrument (celebrate the divine worship with music and accompanying odes):--make melody, sing (psalms).
  - ii. Initially dealt with plucking the string on a harp
  - iii. Came to refer to any instrumental music
- f. The Audience
  - i. One another – yourselves
    - Within the fellowship of believers - teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, - Col 3:16b
    - Not intended to be evangelistic
  - ii. To the Lord
    - Not to draw attention to ourselves or entertaining others
    - It is to rejoice in and praise to God
- g. From the heart
  - i. the center of our being
  - ii. where we have let the word of Christ dwell richly – indicating that truth is important in the music

### C. Consequences Toward God

- 1. Attitudes toward thanksgiving
  - a. The presumptuous - b/c we think we deserve what we received
  - b. the hypocrite – the Pharisee of Lk 18:11-12
  - c. those that are truly thankful
- 2. Levels of true thankfulness
  - a. When things are going well, we are blessed – based on fact
  - b. When we are looking forward to blessing or victory to come – based on anticipation of the fact
  - c. When we are in the midst of the battle, undergoing trouble, even when we may fail – based on an understanding of how God does in us what He alone can do
- 3. giving thanks
  - a. always
    - i. recognition that God is in control of every aspect of our lives
    - ii. grieving of the Spirit is directly related to corrupt speech
  - b. for all things
    - i. b/c we understand what the will of the Lord is – Eph 5:17

- ii. we can give thanks in everything; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us - 1Th 5:18;

4. to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, - 1 Co 10:31

#### D. Consequences Toward Fellow Believers

1. Transition to Paul's extensive discussion on relationships
  - a. Paul is still dealing with the heart of the Spirit filled individual
  - b. He also knows the corrupt society from which the Ephesian believers come
2. submitting to one another
  - a. *hupotasso* - to subordinate; to obey:--be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.
    - i. Military term – to arrange oneself in rank under
    - ii. Relinquishing one's rights to another
  - b. The same attitude of Christ in His dealings with His father – Phil 2:5-9
  - c. An attitude required of all believers
    - i. To those in ministerial offices – 1 Co 16:16; Heb 13:17
    - ii. To governing authorities – Ro 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-15
  - d. Is done out of the fear of God – being in submission to Him
  - e. When not applied,
    - i. creates conflict – Gal 5:26; Phil 2:3; Jas 4:1-4
    - ii. Receives resistance from God – 1 Pet 5:5; Jas 4:6