

“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. God’s Gifts to the Church - Eph 4:7-11

A. Gifts to Individuals – vs 7

1. But

a. Instead of simple conjunction, could be translated “in spite of that”

b. Previous context deals with unity of the body, “but” introduces section on diversity within that unity

2. to each one of us - Ro 12:3,6;

*a. each one – **hekastos** - each or every, any, both, each (one), every (man, one, woman), particularly.*

b. In contrast to the “all” in vs 6

c. Emphasizes the contrast of “but” – unity is not uniformity

d. God’s gracious relation to “all” is also a personal relation to “each one”

3. grace was given - Ro 12:3,6; 1Co 12:11

*a. **charis** - graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):-- acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).*

b. Is God’s self-motivated, self-generated, sovereign act giving

i. When God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4) it was totally out of Grace

ii. The giving of Himself – the immeasurable blessing of intimate shared life – 2 Pe 1:3-4

- His Salvation*
- His Kingdom*
- His inheritance*
- His Spirit*
- His throne*
- His wisdom*
- His love*

- His power
 - His peace
 - His Glory
 - iii. The grace in which we stand (Ro 5:2) not only saves, but enables (Eph 6:2; Phil 4:13; 1 Ti 1:12; 2 Ti 4:17)
 - iv. This enablement makes the special gifts (*charisma*) to function
4. according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- a. Enabling grace is measured out to be consistent with what is necessary for the operation of Christ's gift – *metron* - a measure ("metre"), a limited portion (degree), measure.
 - i. Mt 25:15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.
 - ii. Ro 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
 - iii. Ro 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
 - iv. 1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.
 - v. 1Pe 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - b. *dorea* - a gratuity, gift. Emphasizes the freeness of the gift, where *charisma* emphasizes the unworthiness of the recipient
- B. How Christ Won the Right to Give Gifts – vs 8-10
1. "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." - vs 8
 - a. Paul uses Ps 68:18 as a means to show how Christ received the right to bestow the gifts
 - i. A victory hymn written by David
 - ii. When a king won, he would bring home spoils and enemy prisoners
 - b. Pictures a triumphant Christ returning from battle on earth back to the glory of Heaven with trophies of His great victory - Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
 - i. Through His death and resurrection, Christ defeated Satan, sin, and death
 - ii. Freeing those that were captive to Satan
 - iii. Heb 2:14-15 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
 - c. gave gifts to men

- i. *doma* - a present, gift.
 - ii. Used to express the comprehensiveness of this gracious gift
- 2. Explanation of the Application – vs 9-10
 - a. Now this, "He ascended" what does it mean
 - b. but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?
 - i. Ascended obviously means His return to heaven
 - ii. So, descended from heaven to earth – the incarnation
 - iii. “Lower parts of the earth” – in contrast to “far above all the heavens”
 - Ps 63:9-10 But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals. – Death
 - Mt 12:40 "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. – Grave
 - Isa 44:23 Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel. – the created earth
 - Ps 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. – mother’s womb
 - All deal with the depth of the incarnation – Christ went through all four, womb, created earth, death, and the grave
 - c. He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens,
 - i. The destination is not the issue as much as what He did to be worthy to ascend far above the heavens
 - ii. that He might fill all things
 - all prophecies, all assigned tasks, all universal sovereignty
 - gaining the right to rule His church and give them gifts

C. Gifts to the Whole Church – vs 11

- 1. He Himself gave some to be
 - a. Gave emphasizes sovereign choice
 - b. Some to be – dealing not with individual gifts but men in offices
 - c. 1Co 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
 - i. God has appointed – divine calling
 - ii. First, second, third – chronological significance
- 2. Apostles and Prophets – Apostolic age
 - a. *apostolos* - a delegate, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") (with miraculous powers):--apostle, messenger, he that is sent.
 - b. *prophetes* - a foreteller ("prophet"); an inspired speaker; a poet:--prophet.
 - c. 3 basic responsibilities

- i. Lay the foundation of the church – Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
- ii. Receive and declare the revelation of God
 - Ac 11:28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.
 - Ac 21:10-11 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"
 - Eph 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:
- iii. Give confirmation of that word through signs and wonders
 - 2 Co 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.
 - Heb 2:3-4 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

D. Evangelists and Pastors and Teachers – Church age

- a. ***euaggelistes*** - a preacher of the gospel, evangelist.
 - i. Used of Philip in Ac 21:8
 - ii. Used of some of the work of the Pastor in 2 Ti 4:5
- b. ***poimen*** - a shepherd, pastor.
 - i. Translated shepherd every other time used
 - ii. 2 of 3 times in the epistles used of Christ – Heb 13:20-21; 1 Pet 2:25
 - iii. Emphasizes care protection and leadership, the pastoral role
 - iv. Same as a bishop or elder, just used a different way of identifying them
- c. ***didaskalos*** - an instructor (genitive case or specially):--doctor, master, teacher.
 - i. Primary function of pastors
 - ii. Best to understand them as one office Pastor/teacher