

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

**April 7, 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. *Praying at All Times – Eph 6:18-22*
  - A. *General Instruction – vs 18*
    1. *The Variety*
      - a. **proseuche** - prayer (worship); an oratory: pray earnestly, prayer. Refers to general requests.
      - b. **deesis** - a petition: prayer, request, supplication. Refers to specific requests.
      - c. Two words indicating that we should be involved in all kinds of prayer, whatever is appropriate for the situation.
      - d. Scriptural precept mentions many forms, circumstances, and postures, but mandates none – 1 Tim 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
        - i. Publicly or privately; at home or in Church; at work, in travel
        - ii. In loud cries, in soft whispers, or silently.
        - iii. Deliberately and planned or spontaneously.
        - iv. While seated, standing, kneeling, or lying down.
        - v. Hands folded or raised, eyes opened or closed; head bowed or erect.
    2. *The Frequency*
      - a. Jewish practice of Paul’s day had several prescribed times per day for prayer.
      - b. The New Covenant and the Church bring a new dimension to prayer.
        - i. Lu 21:36 "Watch therefore, and **pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."
        - ii. Ac 2:42 And they **continued steadfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and **in prayers**.
        - iii. Ac 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.
        - iv. Paul’s writings
          - Ro 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

- Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
  - Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
  - 1Th 5:17 pray without ceasing,
- v. Paul's practice
- 2Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,
  - Ro 1:8-9 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,
  - Eph 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
  - 1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
  - 1Th 3:10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?
- c. A person's prayer life says a great deal about the depth of their relationship with God
- i. Most prayer is centered in self rather than in God's will in a matter.
  - ii. Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17
    - Vs 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
    - Vs 11 "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.
    - Vs 15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.
    - Vs 17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- d. praying always is to live in a continual consciousness of God's presence, and speaking to Him about all.
3. The Power
- a. The supreme qualification - in the Spirit
  - b. Equated with "in the name of Christ," to pray consistent with His will and nature.
  - c. To be filled with the Spirit (5:18) enables to walk according to His leading and power, including praying according to His will.
4. The Manner
- a. being watchful
    - i. Mt 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
    - ii. Mr 13:33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.
    - iii. Mr 14:38 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
  - b. to this end with all perseverance and supplication

- i. Col 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
  - **proskartereo** - to be earnest towards, (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):--attend (give self) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually).
  - To earnestly, courageously, and persistently bring everything in our lives before God
- ii. The parables
  - Lu 11:9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
  - Lu 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
  - Lu 18:7-8 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

## 5. The Object

- a. for all the saints
- b. only saints are involved in the spiritual warfare for which God provides the armor
- c. praying for ourselves and our needs is not wrong,
  - i. but praying for spiritual needs is a Biblical calling – vs 19-20.
  - ii. it is a way to be involved in discipleship.
- iii. Eph 4:13-16 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

## B. Specific Instruction – vs 19-20

- 1. and for me,
  - a. not for release from prison and all the difficulties that came from that – vs 20
  - b. that utterance may be given to me,
    - i. that I may open my mouth boldly
      - utterance – **logos** – the temptation to not say something would be strong
      - **parrhesia** - all out-spokenness, frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication, assurance:--bold (-ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence, freely, openly, plainly(-ness).
    - ii. to make known the mystery of the gospel
      - **gnorizo** - to make known; subjectively, to know, certify, declare, make known, give to understand,

- Eph 3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,
- 2. for which I am an ambassador in chains;
  - a. *presbeuo* - to be a senior, act as a representative (figuratively, preacher):--be an ambassador.
  - b. that in it I may speak boldly,
    - i. *parrhesiazomai* - to be frank in utterance, or confident in spirit and demeanor:--be (wax) bold, (preach, speak) boldly.
    - ii. as I ought to speak.
- C. For more information – vs 21-22
  - 1. But that you also may know
    - a. my affairs and how I am doing
    - b. that they may pray intelligently for him
  - 2. Tychicus,
    - a. a beloved brother
    - b. and faithful minister in the Lord,
      - i. 2 Tim 4:12 .... I have sent to Ephesus.
      - ii. Tit 3:12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.
      - iii. Col 4:7-8 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,
    - c. will make all things known to you
  - 3. I have sent to you for this very purpose,
    - a. that you may know our affairs,
    - b. and that he may comfort your hearts.

### III. Benediction – Eph 6:23-24

- A. Paul's desire for the Ephesians – things said elsewhere, but reflect the themes of this letter
  - 1. Peace to the brethren – 1:2; 2:14-15,17; 4:3; 6:15
  - 2. and love with faith – 1:15; 3:17; 4:2,15-16; 5:25,28,33;
  - 3. with faith – 1:15; 2:8; 3:12,17; 4:5,13; 6:16
- B. Paul's desire for all Believers
  - 1. Grace – God's divine favor – Ps 1:1-6
  - 2. be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.