

Paul's Last Words to Ephesus (Ephesians 6:19-24)

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Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

A. While in prison, Paul still looking for and praying for opportunities to preach

Act 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

Act 26:23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Act 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

Act 26:25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Act 26:26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

Act 26:27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Act 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Act 26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

B. Though in prison, Paul still considered himself to be a God-sent ambassador

2Co 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

C. From prison, Paul told Timothy (probably the pastor at Ephesus) to speak boldly

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

2Ti 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Eph 6:21 But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

Eph 6:22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts.

A. That ye also may know...how I do —How was Paul doing while in prison?

Php 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Php 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

Php 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Php 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Php 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Php 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Php 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Php 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

Php 1:21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

Php 1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Php 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Php 1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

B. Tychicus—Beloved brother and faithful minister—Long companion and messenger

Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you...

Act 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia...Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus...

Tit 3:12 When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus...

2Ti 4:12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

C. That he might comfort your hearts

1. We can receive comfort by hearing the words of the gospel from the preacher

Isa 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Isa 40:2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

1Th 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2. The God of all comfort comforts us directly—And indirectly through each other

2Co 1:3 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

2Co 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

3. In the church, we should receive comfort from and give comfort to each other

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

1Th 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Rom 1:12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

2Co 2:7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

1Th 5:14 ...comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

Eph 6:23 Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph 6:24 Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

A. Christ made peace—Paul preached peace—God gives peace—We have peace

Eph 2:13 ...ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *con- tained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Eph 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

B. Love with faith—Real faith grows love—Real love grows faith that loves real love

Gal 5:6 ...but faith which worketh by love.

2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you...because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

C. Grace—Glorious, rich, life-giving, saving grace—And given grace for living now

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace...

Eph 1:7 ...according to the riches of his grace;

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Eph 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.