

Sermon Notes -- Themes from Ephesians

“Contending with the Powers of Darkness”

Part V – Ephesians 6:10-20

I. Introduction

A. Reviewing the text: Ephesians 6:10-20

B. Restating the four R’s.

1. _____ our level of awareness.
2. _____ a check list in order to insure protection.
3. _____ us of our only weapon.
4. _____ the culture with the gospel.

II. Brief study on verse 18.

A. Paul on the need for prayer.

1. Verse 18
2. David – Psalm 55:17,19
3. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones
4. “Pray at all times” is not a call to become a monk. It is a call to G_____ C_____.
5. Pray “in the Spirit” – not a reference to speaking in tongues. (I Corinthians 14:14-15).
 - a. Rather to pray in concert with the Spirit who will help us. – Romans 8:26-27.
6. Note capitalization of Spirit – often translators must interpret the text based on context to determine if the meaning is the Holy Spirit or the spirit of man.

III. Exposition of the main text, verse 19-20.

A. Verse 19.

1. Paul pleads for prayer in his own behalf.
2. Note that he did not pray for release from prison.
3. Asks for boldness – to speak fervently.
 - a. An amazing request by one of the boldest figures of

biblical history.

b. Boldness was for presenting the gospel

4. We all run the risk of becoming mute in regard to the gospel.

- a. The problem of dampened evangelistic outreach because of cultural marginalization.
- b. The unbeliever’s view of the church is often stilted because of social evils such as abortion and gay rights.
 1. Do not be an ugly Christian. Keep the center of debate on the gospel.

5. The gospel is a mystery.

- a. Greek term carries the idea of “known by the initiate.”
 1. Note Philippians 4:12 – “Learned a secret.”
- b. The gospel is a revealed revelation to those who believe and a mystery to everyone else.
- c. Paul said – I Corinthians 1:21-25.

B. Verse 20, “Ambassador”

1. Representatives of the kingdom of God.

C. Verse 20, “In Chains”

1. Note Philippians 1:12-14.
2. His boldness attracted the praetorian guard.

IV. Points for Reflection.

- A. Pray for boldness to speak the truth about the gospel. The powers of darkness want you to be mute.
- B. Be sure the unbelieving world has more of a problem with you over the gospel than your social views or political party affiliation.
- C. If you know Christ, you have been initiated into the truth. You have experienced a revealing of the greatest mystery of life.
- D. Your location in life, family, job, community (sometimes even thought of as chains) may be the very place God desires you to be placed.