

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

**March 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. Spirit Filling in the Workplace – Eph 6:5-9
  - A. Slave Submitting to their Masters – vs 5-8
    1. Slaves – referring to Christian Spirit filled slaves
      - a. **doulos** - a slave (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary; frequently, therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency):--bond(-man), servant.
      - b. A large percentage of people were slaves in the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman empire
        - i. Roman citizens came to look on work as beneath them
        - ii. The entire empire came to function as a slave power
        - iii. Slaves were bought, sold, traded, used, and discarded w/o much thought
        - iv. One Farmer said that he had three classes of farm instruments
          - Articulate – slaves
          - Inarticulate – animals
          - Mute – tools and vehicles
      - c. Scripture does not speak against slavery, but does speak against kidnapping to make people slaves – Ex 20:16
        - i. some slavery was permitted, even promoted
          - a thief that could not pay restitution could be indentured to pay debt in leu of a prison sentence
          - the making of slaves of the conquered nations – Lev 25:44
        - ii. Israelites could not be bought or sold, but – Lev 25:39-41, 46
          - On the year of Jubilee, all Israelite slaves were freed – Lev 25:10
          - could indenture themselves voluntarily - no more than 6 years – left w/ a form of severance pay – Ex 21:2; De 15:13-14
          - they had to be treated as hired workers
        - iii. pagan slaves could not be mistreated,
          - even released if they were injured due to mistreatment – Ex 21:26-27
          - if they ran away, they were to be given asylum and protection – De 23:15-16

- d. The NT does not focus on reforming or restructuring human systems which are not the cause of human problems; the issue is always the heart
2. Their behavior
    - a. ***hupakouo*** - to hear under (as a subordinate), to listen attentively; to heed or conform to a command or authority, hearken, be obedient to, obey.
      - i. Pres. tense indicating uninterrupted obedience
      - ii. God only makes allowance for commands that are unbiblical
        - Ac 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.
    - b. to those who are your masters according to the flesh
      - 1Pe 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.
      - i. slavery is a role that they were to fulfill in this life
        - 1Ti 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.
      - ii. as to Christ – the motivation in fulfilling that role in that one will give account to Him at the Bema seat of Christ – vs 8
  3. Their attitude
    - a. with fear and trembling – honor and respect
    - b. in sincerity of heart
      - i. not hypocritical or superficial,
      - ii. genuine and thorough
  4. Their diligence – vs 6-8
    - a. not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers,
      - i. doing the minimum, only worried about what is required of the job
      - ii. promoting his own welfare, a raise or promotion
    - b. but as bondservants of Christ,
      - i. doing the will of God from the heart – coincides w/ #3
        - attitude of the worker,
        - doesn't need prompting or compelling
      - ii. with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
        - Ro 6:8-11 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
        - Ro 14:6-9 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the

Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

- iii. knowing that whatever good anyone does,
  - Good is that which is done for the Lord in the power of the Spirit
  - he will receive the same from the Lord,
    - Ro 2:6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":
    - 2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
  - whether he is a slave or free
    - Ga 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
    - Co 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

#### B. Masters Submitting to Christ in dealing with their Slaves - Eph 6:9

1. Masters – referring to Christian Spirit filled masters
2. do the same things to them,
  - a. referring back to vs 6-8
  - b. the same motivations and actions as the slave
3. giving up threatening,
  - a. suggests the idea of loosening up or releasing
  - b. not depending on natural leadership, authority, or brute force
    - i. not abusive or inconsiderate
    - ii. realizes that his authority, position are strictly functional and temporary gifts from God – a role he has for now
4. knowing that your own Master also is in heaven,
  - a. understanding that he will give account to Him like vs 8
  - b. and there is no partiality with Him – God doesn't view a person according to his role in this life