

# **THE CHURCH ON OFFENSE IN CONFLICTED DAYS**

**FALL/WINTER 2020/2021**

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

**NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

**ACTS 19, 20:17-38 and other selected support Scriptures**

**Eph 1:3-14**

- I. A review of the strategy that Paul wanted the Ephesian elders to understand in Ac 20:17-38
  - A. *Tireless humble and trying work vv. 17-20*
  - B. *He held back nothing that was PROFITABLE v. 20*
  - C. *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*
  - D. *He testified of the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD v. 24*
  - E. *The main focus of his preaching was PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. The kingdom of God is the reuniting the two rebellious divisions of heaven and earth into one reconciled kingdom under one King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was the reconciler and redeemer of both kingdoms. He is the King of all kingdoms of earth and the Lord over all the “lords” of the heavens. His Kingdom is the last earthly kingdom ever but it unites heaven and earth again in a single kingdom, the Kingdom of God. This is what Paul preached and proclaimed. v. 25*
  - F. *He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD. When he completed his ministry with them, he was innocent of the blood of all the people of Ephesus, especially of those elders gathered there.*
  - G. *He could see the storm brewing for them with his departure and it brought great sadness to him. But he trusted God with them, encouraging them to guard themselves against the false teachers and false teaching that was going to come. From Revelation 2:1-7, they apparently took his counsel to heart but lost something in their heart along the way.*
- II. Background for the letter to the Ephesians
  - A. Timing of Letter – 60-62A.D. while Paul was in Prison – Acts 28
  - B. Make-up of the letter
    1. Chapters 1-3, Theological in nature emphasizing NT doctrine
    2. Chapters 4-6, practical outworking of the doctrine in the behavior of the believer
  - C. Main Themes of the letter
    1. The work of Christ in creating for himself a Holy Community to show forth His Grace
    2. The application of this Grace for this community to walk in accordance with its heavenly calling
- III. God’s Eternal Plan to Bring Glory to Himself “In Christ”
  - A. Predestination “In Christ” - vs 3-6a

1. Why God is Blessed – vs 3a, 5b-6
  - a. His Son - the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
  - b. His will - according to the good pleasure of His will,
  - c. His Praise - to the praise of the glory of His grace
2. What God has done to be Blessed – vs 3b-5a
  - a. who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places “in Christ”
    - i. Spiritual Blessings – not carnal b/c wouldn’t do any good in the battle at hand
    - ii. Heavenly Places
      - where Christ is seated – Eph 1:20
      - where we are seated in Christ – Eph 2:6
      - the realm of the battle and the enemy – Eph 3:10; 6:10-18; 2 Cor 10:3-5
  - b. just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
    - i. Chose us – *eklegomai* – aorist tense, middle voice He chose independently
    - ii. Timing – before the foundation of the world – before creation
    - iii. Purpose
      - that we should be – *einai* - to exist, to be
      - holy and without blame – *hagios/ amomos* – morally pure/ faultless
      - before Him in love
        - directly in front of Him – Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.
        - His motivation for doing this was love
  - c. having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,
    - i. Predestination
      - *proorizo* - to limit in advance, predetermine, determine before, ordain, predestinate.
      - used 6 times, refers to God having for-ordained something or refers to action taken only on behalf of believers – Ro 8:29; Eph 1:5, 11
    - ii. adoption as sons
      - huiiothesia* - the placing as a son, adoption (Christian sonship in respect to God):--adoption (of children, of sons).
      - Jo 1:12; Ro 8:15,29-30; 2 Co 6:18; Ga 4:5; 1 Jo 3:1

## B. Redemption In Christ – vs 6b-10

1. Making us Accepted “In the Beloved” – *charitoo* - to grace, indue with special honor:-
  - make accepted, be highly favored
  - a. What we have and Why?
    - i. Redemption through His blood – ransomed in full, purchased, deliverance
    - ii. the forgiveness of sins – pardoned, remission, freedom, liberty – 1 Jo 1:9
  - b. According to the riches of His grace – how abundant is His grace
2. What we have because of the riches of His grace
  - a. He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence
  - b. having made known to us the mystery of His will,
    - i. Mystery – something that had not previously been revealed

- ii. His will – the Church – an assembly of called out ones made up of Jew and Gentile to become the “empowered by the Spirit of God” lights that reveal the Glory of God to a lost and dying world
    - c. according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,
  - 3. The Creation of the Holy Community “In Him”
    - a. Timing
      - i. that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times
      - ii. Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
    - b. He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
      - i. both which are in heaven
      - ii. and which are on earth
- C. Inheritance “In Christ” – vs 11-14
- 1. An Inheritance obtained
    - a. being predestined
      - i. according to the purpose of Him
      - ii. who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
    - b. We should be to the praise of His glory.
      - i. we who first trusted in Christ
      - ii. after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation;
  - 2. A Guarantee Secured
    - a. having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
      - i. *sphragizo* - to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation; to keep secret, to attest:--(set a, set to) seal up, stop.
      - ii. 2Co 1:22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. – down payment
      - iii. Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed **for** the day of redemption.
    - b. who is the guarantee of our inheritance.
      - i. *arrhabon* - a pledge, part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest:--earnest. – down payment
      - ii. until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
        - Ro 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
        - 1 Co 15:51-54

IV. How these truths fulfill Paul’s strategy of engaging in the conflict with the strategic weapons of our warfare.

A. Our Position “In Christ”

- 1. Blessed w/ every spiritual necessity for our battle
- 2. Access due to imputed righteousness of Christ – vs 4
- 3. Redeemed
  - a. fully belonging to God
  - b. Fully accepted by God

- c. Forgiven
- d. Given wisdom and prudence
- e. Revealed His Will - Made part of the inner circle – vs 9

B. God's Purpose for the Saved

- 1. Chosen to be
  - a. Positionally holy and Blameless
  - b. Practically being sanctified to become holy and blameless
- 2. Predestined to
  - a. be adoption as sons – vs 5
  - b. an Inheritance – vs 11
- 3. Given, as promised, the Holy Spirit - Security
  - a. A Guarantee - Down payment
  - b. Until the body is redeemed