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ON BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST!

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 80
EPHESIANS 6:19-20

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EPHESIANS 6:19-20 "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, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Before we begin this study let us get a correct translation of the whole armour of God.

"Because of this angelic conflict, pick up and put on the whole armour of God, in order that you might have the ability to resist in the evil days of attack, even after having achieved everything, namely, super grace status, the full armour, to oppose the forces of Satan. Stand fast, therefore, after you have buckled your belt around your waist, by means of doctrine, resident in the soul; also having put on the body-armour of righteousness; also having put combat boots on your feet with the equipment of the gospel, even peace. In addition to all this, having picked up and carried the shield of faith, with which shield you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one; also receive the helmet, which refers to being saved; also the sword from the Spirit which is the doctrine from God. By means of every prayer and petition, be praying on every occasion of prayer, in the filling of the Spirit, also with reference to this prayer be on the alert with all persistence and determination, and petitions on behalf of all the saints, which is the royal family of God."

EPHESIANS 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," In these two verses we now come to "The responsibility for witnessing." "And for me" comes from "kai hyper ego" and it means "And on behalf of me." It means Paul is requesting prayer for those last days he will spend in Rome before he is released from imprisonment. The word translated "That" is from "Hina" and is a conjunction of purpose, aim, goal. It means "In order that" utterance, and this is a nominative, singular of "Logos" and means speech, word, thought, doctrine. So it means "In order that doctrine may be given." This word for "given" is an aorist passive, subjunctive of "didomi." It means that Paul wants the one purpose of his life to be the giving forth of pure doctrine which has been given to him in his soul.

The verse thus far should read--

"Also prayer on behalf of me, in order that doctrine might be given to me so I can pass it on."

"That I may open my mouth boldly" is a very poor translation. It really means "That I may always speak with confidence." The word for boldness confidence, courage is "en parresia."

"To make known" is an aorist, active, infinitive of "gnorizo" and this is the whole purpose of witnessing. It actually means "To communicate the gospel by making the issue clear."

A Most Important Emphasis

The whole purpose of witnessing is not to put pressure on people until they make a decision. The purpose of witnessing is not to cram some Scripture down the throat of someone. The purpose of witnessing is to make the issue clear and then leave it there. Leave it to the Holy Spirit to convict and to bring to a decision. Let the Holy Spirit do his work and don't you try to do his work for him.

Take a Good Look at Paul

I believe Paul was the smartest Christian that ever lived, the best doctrine man that ever lived, and the most effective evangelist that ever lived. But here he is asking for prayer for himself, prayer on his behalf. And if Paul needed it, how much more do we need it.

The Mystery To The Unbeliever

The gospel is called a mystery here because it is hidden from the unbeliever. The unbeliever is incapable of understanding the gospel.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

The gospel is spiritual phenomena and the unsaved man just can't understand it. The word is "mysterion" and it is a mystery to the unbeliever but the born again man can understand it.

So this verse says this--

"Also prayer on behalf of me, in order that doctrine might be given to me in the opening of my mouth with confidence to communicate the mystery pertaining to the gospel." Paul realized that the opportunity for witnessing was great and he wanted to be ready for the days and years that were before him. In witnessing let us remember we are not to plead and beg and pressure people, but we are to provide the information and then let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

EPHESIANS 6:20 "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." Every believer is in full-time Christian service and this verse brings this out very forcefully. "For which" is from "huper hos" and it means "For the sake of which gospel" I am an ambassador and the word for being an ambassador here is the present, active, indicative of "Presbeuo." So being an ambassador begins at the point of salvation and continues for life. Every single Christian is included. "I keep on always being an ambassador." The active voice means that this is for every one of us. The indicative mood means that this is final and it will be this way until the end of time. (Please note--You do not dedicate yourself to this kind of thing. You are responsible for being an ambassador from the moment of your salvation. When you were born again, in that moment, you were born as an ambassador. You are born into full-time Christian service at the moment of your salvation.

Then it says "in bonds" but the greek says "en halusis" and it means "in a chain." The correct translation is this--"I am an ambassador on a chain." You and I are ambassadors but not on a chain. You are an ambassador at a typewriter, or in the teaching room, or working on the highway or in construction of a house. Whatever your work, at that job you are an ambassador.

THE DOCTRINE OF AMBASSADORSHIP1. The doctrine of ambassadorship--a definition.

An ambassador is a high ranking minister of state or a member of royalty or nobility sent to another state to represent his government or king. We Christians are ambassadors representing the Lord Jesus Christ. We are royalty representing the Lord Jesus Christ in his absence. The Church Age believer is an ambassador to this world, sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to represent the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Therefore, as an ambassador, you have royalty.

2. The profile of an ambassador.
- He does not appoint himself. He is appointed by God at the point of salvation.
 - He does not support himself. He is supported by the grace of God.
 - An ambassador's instructions are in written form. These instructions should be learned and transferred into the soul.
 - He does not belong to the country to which he is sent and where he serves. The Christian ambassador is a heavenly person and belongs to God. His residence here is temporary.
 - The ambassador does not live in his adopted country for his own personal ends.
 - The ambassador does not treat any insult as personal to himself.
 - The recall of an ambassador is tantamount to a declaration of war on the country he represents. The recall of the ambassadors will take place at the Rapture of the Church when all ambassadors report to Christ.
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
3. The ambassador is related to a number of functions.
His main function is witnessing.
- 2 CORINTHIANS 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."
For a sinner to "be reconciled" is the key to witnessing.
4. Not all ambassadors are effective.
PROVERBS 13:16-17 "Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly. A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health."
These verses actually say this--
"Every wise man acts with doctrine but a fool spreads foolishness. A wicked witness falls into adversity but a faithful ambassador brings healing."
5. The Perspective of the Royal Ambassador.
The believer is the personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth and every believer is in the plan of God.
6. The weeping ambassador.
ISAIAH 33:6-7 "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure. Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly."
We have had an ambassador on a chain, namely, Paul.
This Isaiah passage says that "Jesus Christ will be the stability of your times." (In other words, Jesus Christ controls history.)
But this Isaiah passage ends with men crying in the streets. This is a cry baby ambassador who has accepted the social gospel as his answer to man's need.

7. The successful ambassador.

This is the super-grace man. He constructs an altar of doctrine in his soul. He puts on the full armour of God. He takes up his cross and follows Jesus. He attains Christian maturity.

Now what is the purpose of being an ambassador? Paul here states the answer quite clearly. "That" is from "hina" and it introduces a purpose clause. The words "en autos" and means "In order that in this sphere of ambassadorship." "I may speak boldly" and this is an aorist, middle, subjunctive from "parrhesiazomai" and it means "to speak with absolute confidence and accuracy." "As I ought" and these words really carry the idea that Paul is here saying he had not done this before, but that when he gets out of the Roman imprisonment, he is going to speak exactly as he ought. "As I ought" is from "hos dei" and is a present, active, indicative and this means he will do this right on up to the end of his life. "To speak" is an aorist, active, infinitive of "laleo."

So this verse should read--"For the sake of which gospel I am an ambassador on a chain, in order that in the sphere of my ambassadorship, I might speak with confidence and accuracy as I ought to communicate the gospel."