

Prayer for the Ongoing Declaration of the Gospel of the Kingdom!

October 15th & 16th, 2016

Ephesians 6:19-20

Paul's request for prayer

- ❖ Paul finishes his letter to the Ephesians with a personal request – Pray for me!
- ❖ Paul realized that apart from God's strength and presence, he would not be able to accomplish God's calling on his life.
- ❖ Paul stated his goal in life to the Ephesians elders!
Acts 20:24 "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Paul's request for prayer was specific!

"...that words may be given to me..."

- Luke 21:10-15

"...in opening my mouth boldly..."

- Acts 4:23-30

"...to proclaim the mystery of the gospel..."

Ephesians 3:8-13 "so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

- ❖ In proclaiming the gospel, God is displaying His manifold wisdom to Satan and his demons!

☞ Satan is the deceiver of the whole world!

Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

☞ Satan blinds the minds of the unbelievers!

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

☞ Satan cannot hold back the growth of the church!

Matthew 16:18 "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

☞ Satan continues to lose people from his domain of darkness!

Colossians 1:13-14 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

"...for which I am an ambassador in chains..."

Ambassador: "a minister of the highest rank employed by one prince or state, ... representing the power and dignity of his sovereign."¹

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 "...we are ambassadors for Christ..."

John 17:14 "I have given them your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

Ä Christians will be hated in this world!

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

2 Timothy 2:9-10 "But the Word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

"...that I may declare it boldly as I ought to speak..."

Ephesians 3:11-12 "...Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him."

❖ Boldness is not Brashness

*Brash: "confident and aggressive in usually a rude or unpleasant way ... very strong or harsh."*²

*Bold: "not afraid of danger or difficult situations"*³

❖ Paul was not ashamed of the gospel!

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

• 2 Timothy 1:8-12

❖ Paul asked Christians to pray to God for open doors for the Word.

Colossians 4:3-4 "At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the Word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak."

Paul ends his letter to the Ephesian Christians with an emphasis on
God's grace and our incorruptible love for Christ our Lord!
*"Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ
with love incorruptible." Ephesians 6:24*

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² "Brash" *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* © 2015 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/brash>> Web.

³ "Bold" *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* © 2015 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bold>> Web.

◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.