

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **EPHESIANS 4:8-16**

Ephesians 4:15-16, **But speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **16**: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The **Book of Ephesians** was written by the Apostle Paul between AD 61 and AD 62.
- b. Paul wrote four letters around that time that was designated for the province Asia Minor, which is now called Turkey.
 1. These valuable letters set forth the position of the Christian faith like no other document on the face of the earth.
 2. We know Paul, like other writers of the Scriptures, was moved by the Holy Spirit and God directed what was written.
 3. These four letters are called the "prison epistles" of the Apostle Paul since he wrote them while he was in prison in Rome.
 4. He was waiting for his hearing before Nero, who was the Caesar at that time.
 5. Paul, as a Roman citizen, appealed unto Caesar the Emperor and was waiting to be heard.
- c. There were four men that were friends of the Apostle Paul that bore these "prison epistles" to various providences in Asia Minor:
 1. **Epaphroditus**, who was from Philippi, had the epistle to the Philippians. **Philippians 4:18**, *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*
 2. **Tychicus** was from Ephesus and had the epistle to the Ephesians; which we will be considering today. **Ephesians 6:21**, *But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:*
 3. **Epaphras** was from Colossi and had the epistle to the Colossians. **Colossians 4:12**, *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

4. Onesimus was a runaway slave from Colossi, who had the epistle to Philemon who was his master. **Philemon 1:10**, *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*
- d. These epistles present a composite picture of Christ, the church, the Christian life, and the inner relationship and function of them all as they dovetail together.
- e. The faucets of the Christian faith are presented on the very highest plane.
 1. **Ephesians** is presented to the church (the body of Christ), which is composed of both Jew and Gentile; in which Christ is the head.
 2. **Colossians** presents Christ as the head of the body. The emphasis is on Christ rather than on the church.
 3. In **Ephesians** the emphasis is on the body; in Colossians the emphasis is on the head.
 4. **Philippians** presents Christian living with Christ as the dynamic force in the words that He uses. **Philippians 4:13**, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*
 5. **Philemon** presents Christian living in action in a pagan society.
- f. Paul wrote to Philemon, who was the master of Onesimus, a Christian. **Philemon 1:17-18**, *If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. 18: If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;*
- g. We are going to see how the **Book of Ephesians** is going to work in the lives of individuals.
- h. Ephesians reveals the Church as God's masterpiece, a mystery not revealed in the Old Testament. **Ephesians 5:32**, *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 2:10*, **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**
 1. It represents a wonderful temple not made with hands, constructed of living stone, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 2. The body of Christ in the world is to walk as He would walk and to wrestle against the wiles of the devil. **Ephesians 6:11-12**, *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*
- i. Someday the Lord will come in the air and the church will be raptured out of this world as He tells us in **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: 17: 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.**
- j. Ephesus appeared to be the leading church of the seven churches in Asia Minor that we read about in the **Book of Revelation**.
- k. The Holy Spirit would not permit Paul on his second missionary journey, to enter the province of Asia, where Ephesus was located. **Acts 16:6**, *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.*
 1. The Holy Spirit closed the door to the Apostle Paul's visit at that time.

2. We are never to question God's timing as to what He does; His timing is always perfect. **Isaiah 55:8**, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*
3. Later on, Paul has the opportunity to go back there on another missionary journey. **Acts 18:19**, *And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.*
4. Paul was favorably impressed with the opportunities for missionary work that existed in that area.
5. This being his third missionary journey, he discovered a man named Apollos had been there in the interval between his second and third missionary journey.
6. **Apollos had preached only the baptism of John and not the Gospel according to the grace of Jesus Christ.**
7. At that time Apollos did not know about the Lord Jesus, but later on he became a great preacher of the Gospel of Christ. **Acts 18:24-28**, *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25: This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26: And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27: And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*
8. Paul had a great ministry in Ephesus, and for two years he spoke at the school of Tyrannus, where the Gospel penetrated every sinner of the providence of Asia. **Acts 19:9-10**, *But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. 10: And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*
9. The churches spoken of in the **Second and Third Chapter of Revelation** were founded by the Apostle Paul during this time.
10. This was a great time for the Gospel Message to go out in that there were millions of people living there, and Ephesus was the very heart of the Roman Empire.
11. It was a leading city only second to Rome itself.
12. It was a great culture and religious center.
13. The climate was well pleasing and was a wonderful place to visit; as a matter of fact, the Roman Emperors came to this area for their vacation most of the time.
14. It was just right for the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
15. Paul did a marvellous job of making Christ known in that area.
- l. If you will recall the temple of Diana in Ephesus; it was called one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

- m. It was one of the largest Greek temples ever constructed 418 by 239 ft. which is four times larger than any similar structure.
- n. Ephesus was the first trade center at that time.
1. Paul spent two years there. **Acts 19:10**, *And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*
 2. Paul considered this a great missionary effort; he stayed there longer than any other place he visited. He indicated in **1 Corinthians 16:8-9**, *But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. 9: For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.*
 3. The people of Ephesus heard more Bible teaching from Paul than did any other people, which is the reason why he could write such deep truths contained in this epistle.
 4. Paul's preaching put the silversmiths out of business so there was great opposition to the message and riots in the city. **When the whole counsel of God is preached and taught there will always be opposition. Acts 20:26-27, Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**
 5. Paul was preaching the Gospel of the Living God and life through Jesus Christ.
 6. God had marvelously preserved him which encouraged him to continue. This is recorded in **Acts 19:23-41**.
 7. Paul loved the church at Ephesus; his last meeting was at Ephesus with the elders, and there was a very tender farewell recorded in **Acts 20: 17-38**.
 8. *As a result of Paul's work in the area a great many turned to Christ.*
 9. He was very effective in leading people to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ which should serve as a pattern for every believer. **Proverbs 11:30**, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*
 10. Ephesus was a church at its very best; *a church at a high spiritual level.*
- o. For Chesswood Baptist Church, as we continue to teach and preach the Preserved Word of God, and make it the central focus of our lives, our church spiritually will become very high and very well grounded.
- p. We must not get so entangled with programs, church work, and office work that we forget to ground ourselves daily in His Word. We must discipline ourselves to study God's Word. **2 Timothy 2:15**, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
- q. The liberals tell us there are two books in the Bible that cannot be understood, the first one is **Ephesians** and the second is **Revelation**.
1. However, when we rightly divide the Word of Truth, and we look at these two books, there is nothing that keeps a person from understanding God's Word if he is saved and born again.
 2. *If we are not saved it is difficult to understand what God is trying to say to us in the **Book of Ephesians** and in the **Book of Revelation**. 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.*
 3. *We must believe the Bible from cover to cover and not try to interject or*

spiritualize the Scriptures to make it fit the doctrinal interpretation of men. **Colossians 2:8**, *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

4. The key to the **Book of Revelation** is John was told to write *the things he had seen things which are and things which are hereafter.*
 5. Likewise, the **Book of Ephesians** can be very logically divided.
 6. The six chapters that are contained in the **Book of Ephesians**; the first three are about the Heavenly calling of the church and are doctrinal.
 7. The last three chapters are earthly conduct of the church which is very practical.
- r. We know that the church has a head and the Head is the Lord Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 5:23**, *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the head of the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.* Notice what it says in **Ephesians 4:1**, *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.***
- s. We must know the doctrine, but we must also be willing to put things into action. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.* **2 Timothy 3:16**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- t. The **Book of Ephesians** is one of the greatest on the face of the earth for the Christian. Some outstanding themes that are reflected in this book are:
1. *The Holy Spirit seals the believers as belonging to God.*
 2. *The body of Christ is the church, through which His eternal plan is fulfilled.*
 3. **God has given every believer all the provisions necessary to have victory over attacks from Satan.**
 4. We are helpless against Satan's onslaughts in our own might, our own strength, and we must employ the full armour of God. **Ephesians 6:11**, *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* **Ephesians 6:13-17**, *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14:** *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15:** *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16:** *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17:** *And take **the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*******
 5. *If Christians will understand their calling in Christ, proper conduct in Him will follow.* **1 Corinthians 1:26**, *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*
- u. Let's study the Word today and see what we can glean from this wonderful book.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message December 1, 2019

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

e. **Wherefore he saith.**

1. **Ephesians 4:8**, *Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high, he led***

captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

2. You will notice that “*when He ascended up on high,*” refers to the ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:11, *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

3. When He ascended on high, He did two things: “*he led captivity captive,*” - refers to Old Testament saints who died in the Lord, that were positioned in Paradise. Paradise was the holding place for the souls and spirits of those saints prior to the time that Christ went to the cross. He went and took them out of Paradise and took them into the very presence of God the Father. **2**

Corinthians 5:8, *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.* **Philippians 1:23**, *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:* Secondly, when Jesus ascended He also “*gave gifts unto men.*” This means that He conferred gifts to believers in the church in order to strengthen and build the body of Christ.

4. These gifts were given to people in order for them to exercise and build the body of Christ. **No gift is given for any personal edification.**

f. Now that he ascended.

1. **Ephesians 4:9-10**, **(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10: He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)**

2. If Jesus ascended, at some previous time, He also descended.

3. This goes even beyond the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

4. When Jesus died on the cross, He descended into the lower parts of the earth.

5. There are several things in the lower parts of the earth, two of which is: Paradise – the holding place for the Old Testament believers, and Hell the holding place for unbelievers.

6. Jesus did not ascend into the torment side of Hell as some would have us to believe. **Luke 16:26**, *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

7. He freed the Old Testament saints in Paradise. Now they go directly into Paradise above in the presence of the Lord.

g. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets.

1. **Ephesians 4:11-13**, **And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;** *and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

2. The purpose of these gifts is to perfect the saints, to work the ministry and to edify the body of Christ.

3. There is nothing at all said about an individual receiving some gift for personal edification.

4. *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith,"* - Until we all come in the full knowledge of the Son of God.
5. We are being conformed to the image of God's Son. **Romans 8:29**, *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
6. This is being done each and every day as we walk through this life; we are to display those qualities.
7. Notice He, Himself. This is very emphatic. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one giving the gifts.
8. *"some, apostles;"* - Apostles were given to the church. They had to have seen the resurrected Christ and had to be directly and personally commissioned by Jesus Christ. Although some today have declared themselves to be an apostle. I want you to know that this is scriptural error, false doctrine and should not be a part of any local church.
9. They enjoy a special degree of inspiration. This is the reason why they could in fact write the Word of God. God breathed His Word to them. **Romans 3:2**, *Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*
10. Paul was an apostle, not of man but by Jesus Christ. **Galatians 1:1**, *Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)* **Galatians 1:12**, *For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
11. This office has long since passed away; however, notice *"and some, prophets;"* - This is another gift referring to prophets in the New Testament.
12. They were giving, along with the apostles, particular insight into the doctrines of the faith. **Ephesians 3:5**, *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*
13. These men were under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit and the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. This distinguishes them from teachers. **1 Corinthians 12:10**, *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*
14. There is no one today that can occupy these offices of apostles and prophets.
15. This is why we need to be very careful with men changing the Preserved Word of God.
16. In another sense, we still have their presence around today as we read and study Preserved God's Word.
17. *"some, evangelists;"* - An evangelist was a traveling missionary. The Apostle Paul certainly occupied this office.
18. He made three missionary journeys and was attempting to get men and women into the family of God.
19. These evangelists went into new territories in order to win people for Christ. This is the same thing we need to be doing today.
20. *"some, pastors and teachers;"* - These were under-shepherds of the flock as God has appointed. - They were to instruct the flock. This is a gift that is mentioned in **Romans 12:7**, *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that*

teacheth, on teaching; **1 Corinthians 12:28-29**, And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. **29:** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? **1 Timothy 3:2**, A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; **1 Timothy 3:15**, But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

21. God has given these men to the Church, so they can bring the Church into full maturity. We are being conformed to the image of God's Son. The more we learn about Him, the more we are able to stand fast in the faith and not be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. **Ephesians 4:14**, That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
22. Believers need to be taught. All believers need to be trained in the Word of God, so we can work the ministry.

h. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro.

1. **Ephesians 4:14**, That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
2. "no more children, tossed to and fro," - If you recall the Corinthian church was filled with carnal Christians. They were immature; they didn't know the Word of God.
3. I am sure that if you were to take a cross section of the average church today of the people who sit in the pew, they have very little knowledge of the Preserved Word of God.
4. This is why Chesswood Baptist Church attempts to ground believers in the faith.
5. We do not want them tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine. We want them to understand that men and women try to deceive us, but we must stand firm on the Preserved Word of God, the Deity of Christ and justification by faith.
6. **We must spend much time in the Book to ground ourselves in the faith.**

i. But speaking the truth in love.

1. **Ephesians 4:15-16**, But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: **16:** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
2. Believers are not to remain children tossed to and fro.
3. As the Word of God is spoken in love; we must assimilate that, place it into our lives and we must be getting better and better each day.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is the head from which the whole body fitly joins together.
5. Every aspect of the body is to function. The body is not only to receive orders from the head; the Lord Jesus Christ, but, we are to receive nourishment and fruit. **John 15:5**, I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I

in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6. The Lord wants us to renew our mind and be like the Lord Jesus Christ. **Psalms 51:10**, *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Personal Saviour, today needs to your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- b. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- e. Would you please stand?

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