



Finishing Ephesians Together: Becoming Bolder for Christ!

Ephesians 6:18-20

Although we haven't talked about it much this time through Ephesians, be reminded that this epistle is one of several that Paul wrote from PRISON (others: Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon).

Far from shirking his responsibilities as an ambassador of Christ, Paul is concerned about speaking forth the Gospel with more power and clarity...the very thing that got him imprisoned!

Matthew Henry wrote:

1. It is no new thing for Christ's ministers to be in bonds.
2. It is a hard thing for them to speak boldly when that is their case.
3. The best and most eminent ministers have need of, and may receive advantage by, the prayers of good Christians; and therefore should earnestly desire them.

A Proposition for you: Despite the sufferings we must endure for Christ, we must still live and speak boldly!

1. Know that living boldly for Jesus is a call for all who follow Him, not just the Apostles.
2. We are called to imitate the Apostles' bold faith, regardless of what comes. Note: boldness and humility are not mutually exclusive.
3. Due to sufferings that accompany the Christian life, we must pray for one another to be bold!

WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE BOLDLY

See: Mat 5:13-16; Mat 10:26-28; Act 5:17-20; 1 Co 15:58; 1 Co 16:13; 1 Ti 6:12; 2 Th 2:15.

WE MUST IMITATE THE BOLD FAITH OF THE APOSTLES

See: Peter and John before the council after being arrested (Act 4:10-13); Barnabas' defense of Saul (Act 9:26-31); Paul from prison to Philippi (Php 1:18-21); Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Th 2:1-4); Paul's words to the saints regarding Jerusalem (Act 21:13).

WE MUST PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER TO BE BOLD

See: Col 4:2-4; Col 1:9-11; Jas 5:16; Act 4:23-31.

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Discuss being bold for Jesus. Do you find it difficult? Why or why not?
2. When was the last time you shared your faith in some way with an unbeliever?

3. When was the last time you invited an unchurched person to church?
4. When was the last time you prayed for boldness?
5. How do you think our church would changed if we adopted the “go, stand, speak” mindset?

Catechism

Question: What does every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserves God’s anger and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.