

THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

EPHESIANS 6:21-24, CONCLUDING REMARKS

- A. Tychicus was sent to report on Paul's condition (21-22), *So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.*
1. Tychicus
 - a. He was one of Paul's fellow workers in the ministry, a native of Asia Minor, probably Ephesus, Acts 20:4, *Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.*
 - b. He and Onesimus carried the Colossian letter from Paul, Colossians 4:7, *Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.*
 - c. Tradition holds that he died a martyr.
 2. Tychicus not only delivered Paul's letter to the Ephesians but was to inform them of Paul's condition and activities.
 - a. Paul's aim was to strengthen believers by telling them of God's faithfulness in his life and ministry.
 - b. Missionary reports today are an important means of encouraging Christians of God's work around the world.
 - c. John Stott, *Prayer, correspondence and visits are still three major means by which Christians and churches can enrich one another and so contribute to the building up of the body of Christ.*
 - d. Warren Wiersbe, *What an encouragement it is to be a part of the family of God! Nowhere in the New Testament do we find an isolated believer. Christians are like sheep; they flock together. The church is an army and the soldiers need to stand together and fight together.*
- B. Paul's blessing on the readers of his letter (23-24)
1. He prayed that Ephesians believers will experience peace, love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (23), *Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - a. *peace*
 - 1) Paul had already shared in the letter that peace is found in Jesus Christ, Ephesians 2:14, *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*
 - 2) Peace was emphasized by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 3:16, *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.*
 - b. *love with faith*
 - 1) Love rests on a common faith in Jesus Christ.
 - a. Love is commitment evidenced in brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - b. Ephesians 1:15, *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,*
 - 2) Note the bond of faith and love, Galatians 5:6, *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*
 - c. The source of *peace, faith and love* is the Father and the Son.
 - 1) Paul had just detailed the spiritual armor to be put on by believers and here he prays they will stay close to the Father and the Son from whom peace, faith and love flows.
 - 2) Max Anders, *Victors in spiritual warfare would experience these qualities in daily life.*
 2. He prayed for grace for all who love Jesus (24), *Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.*
 - a. Paul began and ended this letter with a prayer for grace for all who love the Lord Jesus, note 1 Corinthians 12:3, *Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.*
 - b. Paul's use of *incorruptible* in relation to the believer's love emphasizes the need for purity of love without wrong motives or secret disloyalties.

- c. Thomas Constable, *As the apostle opened his epistle by referring to God's grace, so he ended it. God's grace was the key to the creation of the church and the calling of the Christian. It is also essential to the conduct of the Christian.*
- d. Max Anders, *Paul wants to create in the churches, a climate where peace, love, and grace dominate all relationships, where God is sovereign, and where Christ is loved. Such a climate is the arena for victorious spiritual warfare and for successful family living.*

CLOSE

- Darrell Bock, *Ephesians is ultimately about how God has powerfully equipped the church to experience blessing in Christ, by creating a new community that is able to honor God and resist the forces of evil. No longer does one's Jewish or Gentile identity dominate. They are part of a new, reconciled community, a reconciliation that involves not only God but also one another. All enablement in this new sacred community is rooted in what the exalted Christ has provided for His people. That is why believers can have hope, since they have begun participation in a wealth of benefits distributed from heaven. The church's members are citizens raised and seated with Jesus in a heavenly citizenship, though they represent Him now as light on the earth, fully enabled for the task.*
- Warren Wiersbe, *Note the words Paul uses as he closes this letter: peace—love—faith—grace! He was a prisoner of Rome, yet he was richer than the emperor. No matter what our circumstances may be, in Jesus Christ we are "blessed with all spiritual blessings!"*
- Max Anders, *Dear Heavenly Father, help us to draw near to you. Help us to resist the temptations and deceptions of Satan. Help us to want to resist him. By your grace, may we stand firm against him, victorious in the spiritual battle. Amen.*