

**Monday, 15 October 2018 Acts 20:28-30**

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

Paul, in the previous ten verses, summarized his ministry to the Ephesians with emphasis on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Now he turns to necessary instructions to the elders of the church and us today as he warns against fierce wolves for the outside and individuals from within who have twisted the Scriptures.

We need to clothe ourselves in the full armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18) and be fervent in prayer to ensure that we are diligent in our ministries, being always careful to preach and teach the full Gospel, not some adulterated and twisted version that tickles itching ears. (2 Tim. 4:3)

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**Tuesday, 16 October 2018 Acts 21:4**

*And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit, they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.*

A most difficult passage for there is no doubt that Paul was going to Jerusalem in response to the Spirit's leading. (cf Acts 19:21, 20:22) The Spirit cannot, absolutely cannot tell me, yea and someone else, nay. However, He can use you to warn me that there is a very rocky road ahead and that I need to be firm in my resolve to be obedient.

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**Wednesday, 17 October 2018 Acts 21:10-14**

*While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."*

In this passage, the third recorded instance that Paul was warned of the dangers ahead, he was adamant in his conviction that he was serving the Spirit. One of the lessons here is that when the Spirit convicts me of a particular course, I need to be

fixed in my determination to follow His leading.

Another point is in the last sentence; when someone insists that they are ready and willing to die for the name of the Lord, I need to cease my efforts to persuade them otherwise and seek to support them in advancing the Kingdom.

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**Thursday, 18 October 2018**

**Acts 28:23-28**

***When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: "Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears, they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."***

The situation still exists today. There are those who have shut down any emotion, any spiritually directed portion of their sensory system. Their hearts have grown dull and they cannot, will not see with their eyes, or hear with their ears and they will not understand and will not allow healing. They are obstinate in their unbelief.

I need to have the Spirit directed discernment to turn to today's Gentiles, as Paul did. I need to search for those who are hungry to hear and who know that they need healing. I need to be willing to accept that I have planted a seed, now it is up to the Spirit to find someone to water and hoe.

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**Friday, 19 October 2018**

**Romans 1:1a, 4**

***Christ Jesus, ...was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,***

The LORD, God, the Almighty, the Three-in-One declared Jesus of Nazareth to be the Son of God through the Spirit

(Matt. 3:16-17), The evidence of the truth of that statement was in His resurrection from the dead. It behooves me, as one called to be His disciple, to be very familiar with both sentences; they are the linchpins of my faith.

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**Saturday, 20 October 2018 Romans 2:28-29**

*For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but God.*

I can blather all I want about what a great Christian I am but unless the Spirit has transformed my heart, the very center of my being, it is nothing but blithers. However, I find that having experienced that transformation, my soul yearns to have my Father say to me, "Well done, son." The appropriation of man becomes insignificant. What a change, but one which is still a work in process.

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**Lord's Day, 21 October 2018 Psalm 119:29**

*Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me Your law!*

Lord, I have a problem. I am not able to recognize my false ways; I am self-delusional. I need Your law to expose those deeply ingrained habits and practices that lead to broken communion with You. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit who gently and graciously leads me into understanding.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*October 15-21, 2018*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18-19a**

*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

LORD, my prayer for the [congregation] is that the perceptions of our hearts would be inflamed and filled with passion by the hope to which we are called; that those saints we are called to serve would be encouraged to display the riches of Your glorious inheritance in every aspect of their lives That none of us would doubt that incomparable great power which accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine. *Amen*

*To fear or not to fear, that is the question.*

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

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