



“Final Words of Great Importance”

Ephesians 6:18b-24

Main Idea: Christian, focus on the work of the gospel: Praying, encouraging, and serving in the peace, love, and grace of Jesus Christ!

Pray for yourself and for others, focusing on faithfulness in sharing the gospel (18b-20).

Paul transitioned from the reminder about prayer to a request for prayer. Believers not only pray for themselves but for others, and when it comes to spiritual battles in life, we need each other's prayers! Paul told them to pray for believers in general, but he also asked them to pray specifically for himself. His prayer was important. It was a call to action in this passage related to spiritual warfare. Paul called them to pray for his work in the gospel! He wanted to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that was bold and effective, and to do that, he needed the strength and the might of the Lord. Today, nothing has changed. We continue the work of the gospel until the return of Jesus, and we still rely on the strength and might of the Lord for the battle against his work.

1. Pray for believers around the world who face persecution for their faith in Jesus.
2. Pray for your elders and deacons that they would be faithful ambassadors and courageous proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Now pray for each other for your work in the gospel!

Share what God is doing, which brings encouragement into situations that only seem discouraging (21-22).

Paul was in prison on account of his faith in Jesus and his faithful ministry in proclaiming the gospel. This letter, likely written during his first imprisonment in Rome, was written close to the time of some of Paul's other letters such as Philippians. The context in these letters is clear. Paul was imprisoned. Some were taking advantage of his imprisonment for selfish gain in their ministries. Others were concerned about Paul, worried about what would happen to him in the future. There were lots of reasons to be discouraged if the focus was on Paul's present situation at that time, but in Philippians, Paul reminded the believers that what had happened to him was used by God to bring the gospel to the entire imperial guard (Phil. 1:12-13). God was at work! The gospel was advancing, and the focus on what God was doing would bring great encouragement to the hearts of the believers in Ephesus. How true is this still today! In places where there is much to be discouraged about, God is still at work, doing amazing and miraculous things to advance his gospel and make his disciples. In every situation that only seems discouraging, believers can look for what God is doing to always find encouragement.

1. Why is it so easy to complain and to find negative things in most situations? Why is it harder to look for and to see what God is doing (or can do!) in the midst of any situation?

2. Paul called Tychicus a “beloved brother” and a “faithful minister in the Lord.” What do these two things mean? Use blueletterbible.org to do word studies on the above words from these verses.
3. What’s a discouraging situation that’s impacting your heart today? How is God at work in that situation, using it to advance the gospel? How could the gospel be advanced in that situation? Take time to share and to encourage one another in what God’s doing and what he can do!

Find strength in the Lord through the peace, love with faith, and grace that are only found in Jesus (23-24).

Paul’s closing words were familiar words. As was often the case in his letters, he wanted to leave his hearers with God’s blessing on their lives. He wanted their hearts encouraged in hearing about the work of the gospel. He wanted their hearts strengthened in the might of the Lord for their work in the gospel. He wanted them to remember the grace of God that was theirs in Christ Jesus. So Paul extended this final blessing to the Ephesian believers, and it was a blessing that only came to those who believe. God’s peace is only available to those who are at peace with God through Jesus Christ. It’s only for Paul’s brothers and sisters in the faith. Love with faith is only possible in the lives of those who by faith have received the love of God in Christ Jesus! It’s only for those that share the love of God through faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Grace is the undeserved favor of God, which flows to those who truly love their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A love incorruptible is a love that’s genuine and pure: A true love that lasts. These are valuable reminders of the gifts that are available to every believer: Peace, love with faith, and grace! What a strength these things bring to the weary, embattled soul!

1. Why is peace only extended to those who are believers? Is true peace – in the soul – impossible for those who are not believers? Why, or why not? How does one receive peace with God and the peace of God in his/her life?
2. How would you define the love that comes from God? See if you can find a definition for God’s love in 1 John.
3. What is love “with faith?” How is God’s love and faith essentially connected?
4. What does it mean to have God’s grace “with” you? How is God’s grace with you each and every day? Be specific and take time to think through the ways that God’s grace impacted and was with you yesterday.
5. Do you know someone who needs the peace, love, and grace of God in Christ Jesus? Share, and pray. Make a commitment to your testimony with them, telling them about these things in your life through your faith in Jesus.