

EPHESIANS 6:18-21

June 9, 1982

Tonight we close the book of Ephesians. And I'd like for you to take your Bibles and go to Ephesians chapter six and we begin tonight with verse 18. Ephesians 6:18.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always [this is King James] with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The words “with all prayer” most frequently, Corps, those words shows a deep dedicated unalterable commitment to God. When those words are used “with all prayer” it's giving preeminence to the individual's personal devotional commitment to God. And I think that is really unique as you will see as we go along in this verse. Those words “praying always with all prayer” is a figure of speech, spelled p-o-l-y-p-t-o-t-o-n, which is nothing more than just a repetition of words in different inflections in parts of speech. But this figure emphasizes the need for continued prayer; praying always with all prayer. I said to the staff and all of our workers, yesterday in a meeting that was held here at International, that perhaps the most important thing that was...location here on the grounds is the House of His Healing Presence. Because unless, we continue in prayer all the work we do: building these tents, setting them up, getting everything ready so beautifully, will all be rather insignificant. But as we continue in prayer and believing God—that's why this verse here is so tremendous. This emphasizes “praying always with all prayer” this figure emphasizes the need for continued prayer. And that should be continually. The word “supplication” can be translated a number of different ways, but the greatest I know is specific requests or special objects of necessity, a supplication for a special need, Corps. And we do this in the spirit. “...in the Spirit” is to pray in tongues. This praying in the spirit has to be in tongues. Remember in 1 Corinthians 14, take a look at it. 1 Corinthians 14. In verse 14 of 1 Corinthians 14, it says:

1 Corinthians 14:14, 15a

¹⁴ For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, [or if I pray in a tongue; it has to be unknown], my spirit [what?] prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

¹⁵ What is it then? [verse 15] I will pray with the spirit...

And to pray with the spirit then logically has to be praying how? In tongues, that's right.

1 Corinthians 14:15b

...and I will pray with the understanding also:

And that is to pray in the language that you normally speak. That's the “in spirit” of this verse 18.

Now, I've translated this verse 18 as follows:

Ephesians 6:18 Literal translation according to usage

Praying in all seasons with every prayer and supplication spiritually and

watching every minute with all persistence and supplication on behalf of all the saints.

[Repeats verse] “Praying in all seasons with every prayer and supplication spiritually and watching every minute with all persistence and supplication on behalf of all the saints.” Now, this is the expanded one, and I believe that this expanded one really communicates the great truth of this verse.

Ephesians 6:18a Expanded translation

In your personal devotions,...

And I said to you those words “with all prayer” show a commitment to God giving preeminence to personally devotion. That’s why I translated this in the expanded according to usage, literal according to usage.

Ephesians 6:18a Expanded translation

In your personal devotions, believe and pray in tongues continually [believe and pray in tongues continually] for specific objects of necessity [period].

I need a pen up here; there’s no pen here. A marking pen would be the best for me...wanna? Thank you. Period. Then the next line:

Ephesians 6:18b Expanded translation

...And by praying in the spirit [comma], be on the watch [comma], be alert [comma], continually and unceasingly [comma], for the specific objects of necessity for yourself [comma], until you get it [period]. Do this on and in behalf of all the saints also.

Now, just look at that again. “In your personal devotions...” You see, we just finished verse 17 last week talking about the javelin of the spirit that was the Word of God and now then he shifts to yourself; your own personal devotion. “In your personal devotion—devotions—believe and pray in tongues, continually for specific objects of necessity.” The word is not continuously, it is continually. And he explains this in the next line. “...And by praying in the spirit...” you’ll be what? “...on watch,...” you’ll “...be alert, continually and unceasingly...” He just reiterates it, says it again. “...for the specific objects of necessity for yourself until you get it.” You see you can’t ever bless anybody else until you get blessed first, here it is again. You have to have it. You have to receive it. So, in your personal devotions, you believe and pray in tongues for specific objects of necessity. You stay your mind on those specific objects of necessity. So, you stay on the watch for those specific objects of necessity for yourself. You stay alert, continually and unceasingly. Don’t get tired in your mind. Stay that way until you get it. Man what a wonderful verse. You do this, on an in behalf of all the saints also. “...Do this on and in behalf of all the saints also.” That’s how you can stay your mind on all the W-O-Ws all the Corps, all the outreach of God’s Word around the world. This is the verse, pray in the spirit, continually and unceasingly. Do this on and in behalf of all the saints also.

So, in your personal devotions you pray in the spirit so that you get the necessities that you have met. The specific objects of necessity for yourself until you get it but then you don’t stop there you keep on praying in the spirit in behalf of all the saints also, that is verse 18. Verse 19 in King James reads:

Ephesians 6:19

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.

First of all the word “utterance” is the word *logos*, l-o-g-o-s—word. “Opening my mouth” is a figure of speech, it’s an *idiom*. It’s a Semitic expression used of those who begin speaking and continue speaking, and the emphasis is that a man’s heart, his soul, his whole life has to be involved in what he says. “Boldly”—in Aramaic, this word “boldly” goes with the phrase “to make known” and I think that’s where it belongs, which you will see how I’ve handled it later on when I translate it for you here. It doesn’t go with opening your mouth [chuckles]. It goes with making known boldly, to make known boldly. And that boldness is not a bull in the China shop, kind of thing. It is to make it known with clearness, clarity and with freedom in speaking it so that people can understand it. “...to make known” is that word again to proclaim or to preach. There are six occurrences of this word that we told you about dealing which making known the knowledge of the mystery. Now, I’ve translated verse 19 as follows:

Ephesians 6:19 Expanded according to usage

And for me also [comma], in order that the Word may be given to me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.

Now the expanded one:

Ephesians 6:19a Expanded translation

And for me, one of the saints also...

I think, Corps, this is absolutely beautiful here. In the closing section of Ephesians of the book, we just had personal devotional prayer in the spirit in verse 18 and the last phrase “in behalf of all the saints also” then verse 19, “and for me, one of the saints also”.

Ephesians 6:19b Expanded translation

[Paul]..., one of the saints also in order that the Word may be revealed to me, that I will open my mouth in public to make known by preaching, and plainly, the Mystery of the good news.

[REPEATS] “...that I will open my mouth in public to make known by preaching, and plainly...” I have used the word “plainly” instead of boldly; putting the word preaching and plainly together you have everything that that word boldly could possibly mean.

Ephesians 6:19c Expanded translation

...to make known by preaching, and plainly, the Mystery of the good news,

Now verse 20 King James:

Ephesians 6:20

For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

These words, “I am an ambassador”—the foundation of those words are that he is an imperial legate. It’s an imperial term used as an imperial legate. “...in bonds” is simply in chains where many times the right hand or the right arm was bound to the left arm of the soldier. I may speak boldly again, the same truth I just shared as I ought. “As I ought” is as it is binding upon me, or as it behooves me. And I like that, “as it behooves me” very much. It communicates clearly to my mind. Now, the translation of this verse:

Ephesians 6:20 Literal translation according to usage

For that I am an ambassador in chains, in order that I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Now, this is the expanded according to usage...literal according to usage.

Ephesians 6:20 Expanded translation

For I am his imperial ambassador; yet, because I preach the Mystery, I am imprisoned, even chained [period]. Yet [comma], being in this awkward situation [comma], that with confidence I will continue to speak the Mystery boldly as it behooves me to speak it.

Now look at the beauty of the sense that this translation makes. On the closing out of verse 19: made kno...

Ephesians 6:19b-20 Expanded translation

¹⁹ ...make known by preaching and plainly the mystery of the good news

²⁰ for I am his imperial ambassador yet because I preach the Mystery [I'm in] I am imprisoned, even chained; yet, being in this awkward situation, that with confidence I will continue to speak the Mystery boldly as it behooves me to speak it.

Now verse 21, King James:

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:

This word “know” is the word recognize. Simply to know, that you may know, just like you know you’re in the Corps meeting here tonight. That’s the word. Tychicus, carried this epistle of Ephesians to Ephesus, according to Acts 20:4 he was a native Tychicus of Asia. There’s a postscript in one of the manuscripts which attributes the writing of the epistle to Tychicus, namely that Paul dictated it to him and Tychicus wrote it. The words “in the Lord”—“in the Lord” is a sold out commitment in alignment and harmony. Not only is Christ in him but he is so living that he is in the Lord, he is committed, he is sold out, he’s a branded slave—does not back up on God’s Word but backs God’s Word up all the way. And this “...shall make known”—this making known here is the sixth and final occurrence of that key word in Ephesians. Now translated verse 21 as follows:

Ephesians 6:21 Literal according to usage

But that you may know also the things concerning me and how I am doing [comma], behold Tychicus [comma], a beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord [comma], shall make known to you all things [period].

I’ll do it again for you.

Ephesians 6:21 Literal according to usage [REPEATS]

But that you may know also the things concerning me and how I am doing [comma], behold Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord [comma], shall make known to you all things.

Now here’s the expanded one:

Ephesians 6:21 Expanded translation

But that you may know all the affairs regarding me also [comma], and the things that I am doing [comma], behold [comma], Tychicus, a beloved

brother and a sold-out, committed, and trust-worthy slave in our Lord, shall make known to you, by bringing you this epistle, everything that I am doing.

Shall read it to you again. This is the literal according to usage.

Ephesians 6:21a Literal according to usage

But that you may know all the affairs regarding me also, and the things that I am doing, behold, Tychicus, a beloved brother...

See that's real neat to me. Paul loved him and he loved Paul. Tychicus, much like Timothy, just a beloved brother to Paul, but he was not only a beloved brother the next word is:

Ephesians 6:21b Expanded translation

...and a sold-out, committed, and trustworthy slave in our Lord...

He walked the talk and talked the walk, he did it. Not only did Paul love him and he and Paul were real intimate with each other but he was sold out committed trust worthy slave in the Lord...in our Lord

Ephesians 6:21b Expanded translation

...shall make known to you by bringing you this epistle, everything that I am doing.

Verse 22, King James.

Ephesians 6:22 KJV

Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts.

You see in verse 21 in King James "...that ye all also may know my affairs,...how I do..." turns right around here in verse 22 "Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs,..."—it just can't quite be that, there has to be an expansion; and there is. There is not much in the Greek text here that I need to share with you. I think the ext...literal according to usage there that I've done will help you in verse 22. So, I'll give you the translations because the word "purpose" we've handled before, the word "know" we have handled before. And you certainly all know what the word "comfort" is. So, verse 22 I've translated:

Ephesians 6:22 Literal translation according to usage

Whom I send to you for this purpose in order that you will know the things concerning me and that he would comfort your hearts.

Now, here's the expanded one:

Ephesians 6:22a Expanded translation

I am sending Tychicus specifically to you concerning all of this [comma], in order that you may know what is happening to me...

See it's not just regarding his immediate affairs but everything that's happening to him. You know people came to visit him, this kind of thing, the whole thing, it's...that's why I translated it this way:

Ephesians 6:22b Expanded translation

...in order that you may know what is happening to me and that he will comfort and encourage your hearts.

Now, I can understand this very easily. Those people in Ephesus were real concerned about Paul being not only imprisoned but chained. And that's why when Tychicus, delivered the epistle that was one thing but when he spoke to them regarding Paul, then he would bring them comfort. Comfort is a quiet acquiescence. And secondly, he would encourage them. You see just to have the comfort isn't enough, he encouraged them and said look let's go on, let's move the Word. Even though Paul is imprisoned in chains, he loves you; he's praying for you, he is speaking in tongues for you. So, let's be encouraged, let's move on. Comfort their hearts, the inner most part of their being. And knowing how that...they must have felt about Paul how tremendous that verse is, that Tychicus would comfort them, Paul said and also encourage them to move on. Now verse 23 in King James:

Ephesians 6:23

Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace is another one of those words that is a key word in Ephesians, which I've taught you. It's used in the opening of verse chapter 1 verse 2 and here at the close of the Book of Ephesians, in 6:23. This "peace" along with "grace" and here you have in 23:

Ephesians 6:23 Literal translation according to usage #1

Peace to the brethren, love [with faith, that's love with believing, that's love in action,] with believing from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Two not one; God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now translated it as follows:

Ephesians 6:23 Literal translation according to usage #2

Peace to the brethren and love with believing from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three tremendous words in that first phrase: "peace to the brethren" "love with believing" peace, love, believing. What a fantastic conclusion to this whole great epistle of Ephesians. The pinnacle of all truth the book of Ephesians. And then you have from God the Father, that's one, and the Lord Jesus Christ is two (not one). The expanded translation is as follows: I don't think it's expanded much according to usage.

Ephesians 6:23 Expanded translation

Peace to the brethren and love with believing for all the brethren...

Boy how thankful I am to God that it doesn't say "and *like* for all the brethren"; it says love. This is most remarkable, Corps. Sometimes you just can't like some of the brethren because what they're doing is contrary to what you really believe and know to be the truth of the rightly divided Word. Yet they're born again. For they have confessed with their mouth to the Lord Jesus and they do believe God raised him from the dead and if he did they are what? Saved, and if they are saved [taps] they are saved [taps]. They are no less saved then you are saved or I am saved. You are either saved or you ain't saved, right? And no matter whether I like it or don't like it has nothing to do with it. The Word of God

says I have to love the brethren. I have to love them. And to love [taps] is possible. To like what they do at times, like when people are born again and then they say speaking in tongues is of the devil, you see, still have to love them, but I sure don't like what they're saying, so we have to love the brethren. [Chuckles] Boy I hope you understand this. Every person who is born again of God's spirit is going to be in the gathering together. And therefore I have to love all of those who are born again. And I have to love them with the love of Christ, people. The Word of God has not instructed me to *like* everything they do but it has instructed me to love. And that I can, and that I do. Verse 24 the final verse of this great record of God's Word. In King James reads:

Ephesians 6:24

Grace *be* with all them [who love, or] that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity...

Sincerity is incorruptibility. Center margin has, with incorruption. Grace is unmerited favor. And again, the word love. That love, our lord Jesus Christ, without corruption, perhaps the word "purity" with no incorruption whatsoever. This last verse, really, includes those who are walking in the household on the greatness on the Word, that love our Lord Jesus Christ, in all purity without any corruption in it. Because they have heard the Word of God, they know the Word of God and they live the Word of God. They not only know the Word but they are held by the Word. It is one thing to know the Word and something else to be held by that Word. You can hold the Word in your head and not be held by the Word. The word "amen" simply is so shall it surely and truly be. Or perhaps very simply, so be it. I've translated verse 24 as follows:

Ephesians 6:24 Literal translation according to usage

Grace be unto all who love our Lord Jesus Christ without corruption [period]. Amen.

The expanded one:

Ephesians 6:24 Expanded translation

Grace be unto and upon all of you who love our Lord Jesus the Christ in all purity.

Grace be unto you and upon all of you who love our Lord Jesus the Christ in all purity. Period. So be it. Period.

I feel and believe that it is uniquely significant and wonderful, for the Corps meeting on this Wednesday night just preceding the opening of the class on Living Victoriously, and I am truly blessed to realize that in the last two verses of this great revelation in the Book of Ephesians, four words are used that I'll be handling during the Living Victoriously class. The last word used in Ephesians is the word "grace." And this is not only remarkable but it is spiritually significant because the grace of God is the foundation on which everything is built. He closes out the great record of the Book of Ephesians on the foundation of grace—God's grace, unmerited favor, then he builds on that: believing of verse 23 preceded by the word "love," preceded by the word "peace." Four great words that we will be handling with our people that are coming to the Living Victoriously class, because we're going to be handling living victoriously with peace, with love, with believing and in grace.

So this is how, the great epistle that Paul wrote—God gave it to him and Paul wrote to

the church in Ephesus which is the same great truth that he's addressing to the church of the body this day ends with so be it, amen. And my prayer is that so may it be for the Way Corps, not only tonight but until the Return of Christ. Shall we pray.

[Prayer] *Our gracious and loving heavenly Father, my heart is filled with thanksgiving and love and peace and joy and your great presence and power, and I thank you for your grace to us and especially to me in allowing me to teach the greatness of the revelation that you kept secret from the foundation of the world and first revealed to the Apostle Paul to teach it to the Way Corps again this year. Thank you Father, for allowing us to live and to be together and to be a part of the greatness of your Word and I thank you for all the Way Corps of the present, of the past, and of the future and may they be the leaders to hold forth your Word like Tychicus was slaved, sold out, committed, walking the Word, talking the Word and holding forth the Word. And so may the Word again live Father, in our day and in our time through your people who believe it. So be it this night and forever, in Christ Jesus name, that name which is above every name Father, your only begotten son, my lord and savior, I pray, amen.*

God bless, that's the end of Ephesians. {Audience applause.}