

## Ephesians 4.29-32

JVI, Long Lake Community Church, 08.04.19

Texts: Ephesians 4.29; 8; 30 (YLT); Psalm 6.1 (KJV); Ephesians 4.31-32

- 1 Paul is known as a Rabbi, and these Rabbis are so well-versed
  - a They have memorized so much of the Hebrew Bible, it's mesmerizing
  - b They make countless allusions to Scripture, and I'm analyzing their style
  - c But they're probably laughing saying I'm missing the point or their writings
- 2 I don't want to miss the point of the what? or the why?, but I do like to ask HOW?
  - a How is the message being delivered? There's often a beauty in the delivery
  - b For my own sake, I'm putting our verses today in poetic stanzas
  - c I first learned these in my class on the Major Prophets in my undergrad

### **i. Ephesians 4.29: These Rabbis are always alluding to Scripture**

*Let no corrupt word out of your mouth go forth,  
but what is good unto the needful building up,  
that it may give grace to the hearers;*

#### **a Speaking a "corrupt word" is contrasted with giving a grace filled word**

1 To "give" is the Greek verb *didomi*, which can also mean to minister.

a) Earlier in the chapter, the verb is also used

*wherefore, he saith,  
    'Having gone up on high  
    he led captive captivity,  
    and gave gifts to men,' -- (verse 8)*

*Now, you may be a prophet or more of an evangelist. Some call it the 5-Fold Ministry, and it can change in different seasons. But no matter your role in this season, the **Faith and Practice** guides says we want to find ways to free the minister for the work.*

2 As a shepherd I know it's great when people free up the pastor's time

#### **b Ephesians 4.8 is tied to 4.29, we do not corrupt with our words, but offer grace**

### **ii. Ephesians 4.30: I'll go to a Psalm that I like in the KJV in a minute**

*and make not sorrowful the Holy Spirit of God,  
in which ye were sealed  
to a day of redemption.*

#### **a There are different opinions about what Paul is talking about here**

1 Who knows? I say let's just be careful when chattering about the HS

2 So, then what could it mean to make the Spirit sorrowful?

I like the KJV on certain Psalms like **Psalm 6.1**: *O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.*

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I honestly don't know what David is repenting of at this point in his career. David is considered a prophet and a king. Sometimes prophets cry out for the sins of the people in the first person singular, as if interceding.

### **b There are a couple of reasons this could be an intercessory prayer**

1 First of all, when we think of David as prophet and king, *there could be more*

a) He associates with prophets, priests, the priestly class of worshippers

b) He brings the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem

2 Secondly, this may be an intercession because David does not confess a sin

\*The chapter is a *form*: i.e. repentance, anguish for sin, and restoration. You call it a form a *Minute* :-) Does someone want to repent? Do we have a *Minute* for that? It's a form of prayer. There are other passages like that in our prayer manual, the Psalms.

3 So it's probably a guide for us to pray, or intercession for us

### **c However, I really like the KJV here "hot displeasure!"**

1 That speaks to me of the Spirit *sorrowing* or *grieving* over us

2 He may not be mad, but just weeping, calling us home to the family of JC

### **d. Ephesians 4.30 "in which we were sealed" the Spirit as seal**

\*Long before there were self-adhesives envelopes that we could seal to mail a someone, there were seals. The document would be folded a certain way. A special wax would be melted and dripped on the document to close it. Then a signet ring or something official like that would be pressed into the melted wax. This would seal the document and prove who sent the document, like a signature.

1 The seal of the HS is 1 of 7/8 widely accepted symbols for Him

2 Wind, Water, Cloud, Oil, Fire, Dove, Seal

3 Another symbol is the Body as Temple in the New Testament, so . . .

### **b "Monthly Mtg" if we're in UNITY! is *Body/Temple* & our physical *Body is Temple***

### **iii. Ephesians 4.31: What not to do**

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil-speaking,  
be put away from you,  
with all malice,*

a Verse 31 holds references to ways that we can break the seal of fellowship

b This is what not to do . . . then the next verse is what to do

### **iv. Ephesians 4.32: What to do**

*and become one to another kind, tender-hearted,  
forgiving one another,  
according as also God in Christ did forgive you.*

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**Invitation:** I really want to speak more about verses 31 and 32, I really do. But let me say this for now. They cannot be understood with verse 30. You see the Holy Spirit is the active agent who applies the blood of Christ. The Spirit is the one who applies what the Father accomplished through JC. That blood applied, by the Spirit's seal, frees you from sin, and helps you to be kind to each other. However, it's more than that. The Holy Spirit produces the change within you that Jesus Christ paid for on the Cross, and the Spirit changes us *ontologically*. That means He is making you into a completely new person inside, and sometimes He does the same with a unified congregation. Paul bears that out in Ephesians 4.