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A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **"AFTER THE UPROAR CEASED"**
(Acts 20:1)

- Chapter 20 picks up with **Paul leaving Ephesus soon after the tumult** created by Demetrius, the silversmith.
- It is wrong to think that the world and the church **can co-exist peaceably**

- The only way that the church can be worldly friendly is to compromise its message.

- James wrote in 4:4:
Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?
whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

- The world is governed by Satan,
- The church is governed by Christ.
- You cannot bring the two together peaceably except by compromise, which God does not allow.

- 2 Corinthians 6:14

Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness?

and what communion has light with darkness?

- In the Old Testament we find the story of the king of Judah, Jehoshaphat who was a godly king, but he went up to Israel to visit Ahab, who was one of the most ungodly kings of all.
- Jehoshaphat joined with Ahab, to fight their enemy. Ahab said to him,
 - **"Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?"** and Jehoshaphat answered,
- "I am as you, and my people as your people in the war."⁶

- When he returned to Jerusalem after the disastrous defeat in which king Ahab was killed,
 - The prophet of God came to him and said:
" **Should you help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore the wrath of the Lord is upon you.**"
(2 Chronicles 19:2)
- **Whoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God.**
(James 4:4)

- One thing that you have to admit about Jesus is that

He was not politically correct.

- **"You cannot serve two masters."**
(Matthew 6:24)
- It is no wonder that **Paul's preaching** caused an uproar.

- **1 John 2:15**

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- **1John 2:16**

For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- **1John 3:13**

Don't be surprised my brethren, if the world hate you.

- **1John 5:19**

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedness.

- Proverbs tells us:
- **Proverbs 29:10**
**The bloodthirsty
hates the upright.**
- **Proverbs 29:27**
**He that is upright
in his ways
is an abomination
to the wicked.**

- **Jesus warned His disciples:**

- **Luke 6:22**

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall exclude you from their company, and shall smear your name, for the Son of man's sake.

- **Luke 21:17**

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

- **John 7:7**

The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

- **John 15:18**

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

- From his letter to the Corinthians it would seem that Paul's original plan was to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost, but it is possible that this uproar caused a change of plans.

- Paul wrote to them:

- 1 Corinthians 16:5

**Now I will come unto you,
when I shall pass through Macedonia:**

- 16:8 **But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.**
- Often our plans are altered by circumstances.
 - James warned us about setting hard and fast plans,

- **James 4:13**

Go to now, you that say, **Today** or **tomorrow** we will go into such a city, and stay there a **year**, and buy and sell, and make **money**:

- **4:14** You do not know what tomorrow might bring. For what is your life? It is **like a vapor**, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.

- **4:15** For you ought to say, **If the Lord wills**, and **we are still alive**, we will do this, or that.

- When Paul arrived in **Macedonia**, he did not receive what you might term a warm loving reception.
- He wrote his second letter to the Corinthians from Macedonia and declared to them:
 - **2 Corinthians 7:5**
**For, when we were
come into Macedonia,
our flesh had no rest,
but we were troubled on every side;
there were
fights without
and
fears within.**

- Act 20:7:

AND UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
WHEN THE DISCIPLES CAME TOGETHER
TO BREAK BREAD.

- The church observed the first day of the week as their day to worship.
- There is not a single reference of the Lord's church worshiping on the Sabbath,
or keeping Sabbath law.
- Gathering on Sunday was mentioned **twice** by Paul.
 - In our present text: Acts 20:7
 - 1 Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no collections when I come.

- The Sabbath day **belonged to the old law,**
- But the first day of the week **belonged to the New Testament.**
- Seventh day worshipers often try to place the blame for the worship on Sunday **to the Roman Emperor Constantine,**
- But 100 years before Constantine, **Tertulian,** one of the early church fathers, **stated that the church considered the first day of the week as the day of worship** because of the resurrection of Jesus took place on the first day of the week.

- Colossians 2:16

Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath:

- 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but Christ is the substance.
 - The whole issue comes back to the Judaizers in the early church.
 - Those who came to Antioch and said that you had to keep the law of Moses and be circumcised to the saved.

- Here in Colossians
Paul had just said concerning Jesus:

- Colossians 2:8

**Beware that no man captivates you through
empty and deceitful philosophy
that is based on the traditions of men,
the basic principles of the world,
and not after Christ.**

- Regarding traditions
let us notice that even today
men will deceive you.

- And how you might ask?

- **1 Corinthians 11:26**
- **For as often as you**
- **eat this bread, and drink this cup,**
- **you show the Lord's death till He come.**

• **One internet commentator wrote:**

• "He did not say how often they were to do it."

• "It was a ritual that was to be observed until He came again."

• **Thus we do it at least once a month,**
and usually on the first
Wednesday night of the month."

- Although Paul did not say specifically
that we are to observe
the Lord's Supper every Sunday
let us notice the verse in Acts 20:7:

- Acts 20:7

**And upon the first *day* of the week,
when the disciples came together
to break bread,**

- Question?

On what day did they observe the
“breaking of the bread”?

- Answer: “**First day of the week**”

- Now notice Romans 15:4

**For whatsoever things
were written before**

were written for our learning,

- Where in scripture did God tell the Jews
to observe the Sabbath Day
EVERY Sabbath day?

- He didn't.

Exodus 20:4

**“Remember the Sabbath day,
to keep it holy.”**

Numbers 15:32

And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death:

**15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died;
as the LORD commanded Moses.**

- Let us now notice Acts 20:6-7

- Acts 20:6

**And we sailed away from Philippi
after the days of unleavened bread,
and came unto them to Troas in five days;
where we abode seven days.**

- 20:7 **And upon the
first day of the week,
when the disciples came together
to break bread,
Paul preached unto them,
ready to depart on the morrow;
and continued his speech until midnight.**

- Some might assume that in verse 6 Paul was observing the Passover.
- But in verse 7 he is observing the “Lord’s Supper”
- Now, that would be quite confusing but we know:
1 Corinthians 14:33
”God is not the author of confusion”
 - Therefore the mention of the Passover or “unleavened bread” is merely an indication of the time of the year when the left Philippi going to Troas (Acts 20:6)

- We now find Paul calling for the elders from Ephesus to meet him at Miletus.

- It is an emotional farewell.

- Paul has some

- good news

- (Acts 20:24)

- and

- some bad news.

- (Acts 20:29)

- First the good news:

- Acts 20:24

**But I do not account my life
of any value nor as precious
to myself,
if only I may finish my course
and the ministry
that I received from
the Lord Jesus,
to testify to the gospel
of the grace of God.**

- God loves the sinner,
but He hates the sin.
- Through His prophet Ezekiel,
He cried to Israel,
Ezekiel 33:11
**Say unto them, As I live,
saith the Lord GOD,
I have no pleasure in
the death of the wicked;
but that the wicked
turn from his way and live:
turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways;
for why will ye die,
O house of Israel?**

- God's wrath is not directed against man per se, but the ungodliness of man.
- Some have a wrong concept of God.
- Jesus did not die to persuade God to love you.
- God is not fuming with wrath wanting to destroy .
- It was God who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die as your substitute so He could have a righteous basis to forgive sins.

- It was necessary that men should testify of this gospel of grace, for it is not revealed in nature.
- Nature witnesses to law.
- We see the laws of nature.
- To seek to defy those laws is courting pain and death.
- They are fixed and non-personal.

- Nature reveals
His love for beauty.

- The colors of the
flowers, trees, skies

- Nature reveals
His order.

- Everything producing after its own kind.

- Imagine confusion if this not so.

- Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived;

God is not mocked:

**for whatsoever a man sows,
that shall he also reap.**

- **Nature reveals**
His wisdom.
 - His ability to
create life forms.
 - Some for the
sea, land, or both.
- But we do not find
the gospel of
grace of God
in nature.

- **"I KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT SEE MY FACE AGAIN."**

(Acts 20:38)

- **2 Timothy 4:6**

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

- **4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

- PAUL DECLARED THAT HE HAD BEEN **PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

(Acts 20:25)

- **Jesus preached the kingdom of God:**

- **Matthew 4:23**

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

- Jesus said that we were

to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

(Matthew 6:33)

- The gospel of the kingdom

was to be preached to all the world.

(Matthew 28:19-20)

- **Mark 1:14**

**Now after that,
John was put in prison,
Jesus came into Galilee,
preaching the gospel of
the kingdom of God.**

- When Jesus told a man to follow Him,
the man replied,
"**Let me first go and bury my father**".

- **Luke 9:60**

**Jesus said unto him,
Let the dead bury their dead:
but go thou and
preach the kingdom of God.**

- **Acts 1:3**

**To whom also
he showed himself
alive after his passion
by many infallible proofs,
being seen of them forty days,
and speaking of the things
pertaining to
the kingdom of God:**

- When Philip went to Samaria we read:
 - Acts 8:12
But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
 - What is the gospel of the kingdom of God?
 - The word gospel means good news.

Acts 20:26

Therefore I testify to you this day
that I am innocent
of the blood of all,
20:27 for I did not shrink from
declaring to you
the whole counsel of God.

- James warns those
who would teach the word of God,
"Be not many masters,
knowing that you will receive
the greater condemnation.

(James 3:1)

- Paul took very seriously
his call to preach the gospel.

- 1 Corinthians 9:16

**For though I preach the gospel,
I have nothing to glory of:
for necessity is laid upon me;
yea, woe is unto me,
if I preach not the gospel!**

- **God said to Ezekiel:**

- **Ezekiel 3:11**

**Go, to them of the captivity,
unto the children
of your people
and speak unto them,
and tell them,
Thus saith the Lord GOD;
whether they listen or not.**

- HOW IS IT THAT PAUL COULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT TO THEM?
BECAUSE HE COULD SAY,
"FOR I HAVE NOT SHUNNED TO DECLARE UNTO YOU ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD."
 - Paul was with them **for three years** teaching them the word of God.
 - He no doubt went through all of the scriptures with them.
(Acts 17:3)

- Paul is now turning the responsibility over to them.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

(Acts 20:28)

- First, themselves.
- Second, the flock.
- Third, consider the price.

- **Now the bad news.**

- **Act 20:29**

- **For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.**

- **20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.**

- **20:31 Therefore watch, and remember,**

- False lying prophets **are inspired by Satan** and have existed from the beginning.

- A false prophet often comes **in the guise of an angel of light.**

- **2 Corinthians 11:13**

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

- **HOW CAN YOU TELL
A FALSE PROPHET?**
 - **Not by his looks,**
for he looks like a sheep.
 - **Not always by his words,**
for he uses
feigned words
(plastos).
 - Peter tells us **how.**
 - **They seek to
make merchandise of you.**
(2 Peter 2:3)

- **2 Peter 2:1**

But there were **false prophets** also among the people,

- even as there shall be false teachers **among you**,
 - who privately shall bring in **damnable heresies**,
 - even **denying** the Lord that bought them,
- and bring upon themselves swift **destruction**.
 - **Many** shall follow their pernicious ways;
 - **They shall speak evil of the way of truth** and lure many to follow them.

- **THEREFORE WATCH AND REMEMBER.**
(**Acts 20:31**)
 - **Watching** has to do with the **future**,
 - **Remembering** has to do with the **past**.
- We need the foundation of the past so that we can watch for the future.
 - **If we do not** remember the past, we will make the same mistakes in the future.

To the Church in Ephesus

- Rev 2:1

Unto the angel of the
church of Ephesus
write;

2:4 I have *somewhat* against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.

- 1 Corinthians 10:12
Wherefore let him that
thinks he standeth
take heed lest he fall.

- Acts 20:32

And now, brethren,
I commend you to God,

- and to the word of his grace,
- which is able to build you up,
- and to give you an inheritance
- among all them which are sanctified.
 - When all is said and done,
the great gift of eternal redemption
is a gift of the Father in heaven.
 - However well men may obey,
the great gift is yet a gift.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

