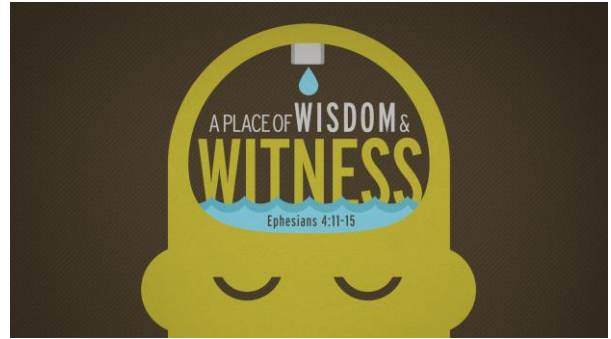


“A Place of Wisdom & Witness”

Ephesians 4:11-25



1. A Place of Wisdom For The Believer (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- A. God gives us people (11) - “And He gave the apostles {originating work}; and the prophets {illuminating work}; and the evangelists {harvesting work}; and the pastors and teachers {shepherding work}.”
- B. God gives us progression (12-13)
 - a. Spiritual maturity - “to equip the saints...”
 - b. Kingdom mission - “...for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”
 - c. Deepening oneness - “...until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”
 - d. Spiritual enlightenment - “...and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”
- C. God gives us protection (14) - “So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”
- D. God gives us proficiency (15-16) - “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

2. A Place of Witness To The Non-Believer (Various)

- A. The call to follow involves the call to fish (Matthew 4:18-22) - “While walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19

And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

- B. The empowerment to proclaim proceeds from the Spirit (Acts 1:8-9) - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- C. The commitment to witness requires the compassion of Christ (Matthew 9:35-38) - "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
- D. The completion of the calling is the development of disciples (Matthew 28:18-20) - "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me (power). 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (proclamation). And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (presence)."