

APPREHENSION ACTS 20:22

1. Apprehension is common to life. It is tension, centered on the unknown.

- It is unsure, but has not given itself over to worry. It still holds out hope.
- It is not fear, yet not funny. It has mixed emotions.
- We must beware of it for it can turn into worry or fear and can become crippling to our thoughts.
- Like an uncertainty, we are uneasy in heart, not at rest.
- “What frustration is to yesterday, apprehension is to tomorrow.”

2. Acts 20:22 “And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there.”

- Paul said he was “bound in spirit”.
- He did not know what was ahead. He was full of emotion.
- Apprehension is not a sin, like fear and worry.
- The bible says “Do not fear” and that
“We have not been given a spirit of fear.”
- Apprehension is a feeling of uneasiness,
 - o But we haven’t given into the emotion of it.

Paul didn’t give into it. He realized that he wasn’t okay, and that he needed to do something about it.

- Apprehension is positive proof that we are human.
- It is normal to question new things ahead, to be uneasy about new situations.
- Apprehension is not a lack of faith.
- It can have a negative quality that could be like putting you on a short leash. It can hold you tightly back, and cause you to not become what you want.

The question is what will you do about it?

- Paul acknowledged it and stood his ground.

3. Acts 20:24 “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

- It is okay to have Apprehension.
- However, we need to walk in faith and not let our apprehension move us.
 - o It is only a feeling and must not determine our course.
 - o It didn’t determine Paul’s.
 - o **v.24 “I will not be moved, neither count I my life dear unto myself..”**
- - Paul had Jesus’ life, and counted it dear.
 - o **“so that I might finish my course with joy..”**
 - o He decided how he was going to feel.
 - o **“I will finish in joy.”** Paul was not going to let apprehension stop him.
- We decide how we are going to feel.
 - o We make a quality decision by what we know.
 - o **I AM GOING TO FINISH IN JOY!**

- Apprehension is impressive, but it is not a leading from God.
 - o It is just a normal emotion and we must learn how to deal with it.
 - o God has given us all a ministry. The life we bear up belongs to Jesus Christ.
 - o We must fight apprehension with determination,
 - o Saying, ***“I will finish the course with joy.”***

- Paul instructs us in what throws apprehension to the ground or cast it behind.
 - o We utilize our determination to fulfill what God has called us to do.
- **Our determination will defeat apprehension.**
 - o Ministry requires it.
 - o We must purpose in our heart complete our course and our call.

- Apprehension is a feeling. It has no power of itself.
 - o We must choose to follow the Word of God and our commission;
 - o make it a choice of our will.
 - o We must be determined to do and finish the course.

- We need to make a quality decision to finish the course with joy in our heart.
 - o The bible says that **“the joy of the Lord is our strength.”**
- Apprehension will bind us up; literally smother us, by turning into fear or worry.
 - o We must recognize it, face it!
- Declare to ourselves that we are not of the flesh but we are of the Spirit of Life,
 - o Called to finish the task, and, be determined to do it!

Determination Pulls Rank on Apprehension. It is a Positive Force.

It is our power to finish the course with joy. ***“A merry heart does good like medicine.”***

It helps us rid ourselves of fear.

4. Philippians 3:7&8 “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

- **“I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my lord.”**
- We need to be determined in our mind to find the knowledge of Jesus Christ to receive it as excellent.
- Nothing less can succeed.
- Jesus is first, all else is after.

Choosing Jesus is a positive choice;
in choosing him we have chosen what is excellent. We cast aside worry, apprehension and doubt, count them as nothing.

“for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

- We “win Christ” by the “knowledge of our Lord”;
- Putting him above all; making him preeminent in our life.

V.9 “and be found in him”

- In him we have found our excellency.
- Our life is gone. He is seen. All that people will see and know of us is Jesus.
- They will see us “in Christ”.
- Every thought of ours needs to be centered on him.
- Then we can move past apprehension and fear,
- ready to “call down fire” in front of everyone and not worry what people will say.

“In him” we have “won him” (v.8).

- o Our mind has found the excellency of Him,
- o By defeating the things of this world.
- When we have “won Christ” we have gotten “the prize”,
 - o which is control over the things that have enmity against us:
 - o our flesh and our mind.
- If we have “**WON**”, our mind is submitted to him.

Phil.3:9 “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

- For us to have “the righteousness of God” means that our faith is in him; our only righteousness is “in him”, from God.
- Paul says that he is gone, that the only thing left is Jesus.
- For our faith to be in him, we must turn all over to Jesus.
- Our minds need to be totally in submission to the Word of God.
- Our righteousness is his, is of his Spirit, and through faith, to know him.

Phil3:10 “that I may know him.. (About him, his love, his mercy his goodness, his character)..and the power of his resurrection..

- To know life where there was death.
- To bring life to those who were dead in sin so they can walk in fullness of power, in the fullness of his love.
- Paul wanted all men to know Christ like he did so they too would have all things fulfilled in them.

“..and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”

- We died 2000yrs ago; reckon the old man dead.
- Our life is born of and through him.
- We are to do all in faith so that we might “know him”
- and reflect him in all we do.
- All Paul wanted to know was
 - o that He was alive,
 - o and that he was dead;
 - o that the world would see only Christ.

Phil.3:12 “Not as though I had already attained, neither were already perfect:”

- To be perfect is to know the fellowship we have in his life and in his death, so that we can become all that He is,
- so that in him we live and move and have our being.

“..but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.”

- Jesus’ purpose is for us to be “in him”, to take on his righteousness.
- He wants us to go after it. He wants us to live by faith.
- “The just shall live by faith.”
- By faith in Jesus Christ we live!
- Count ourselves dead, alive in him, that we might attain.
- Count it all joy.
 - o Finish the course with joy!
 - o It comes from Christ’s life in us.

Phil.3:13 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do..” Phil.3:14 “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- “The high calling; I press toward the mark.”
- Missing the mark is sin.
- The mark (the high calling of Jesus) we strive for is to be “in Jesus.”
- Whatever is not faith is sin.
- It takes faith to hit the mark;
 - o we can’t believe in our own works, our own righteousness.
 - o This is the worst sin.
- The high calling requires faith.
 - o We are to do what he “apprehended us for”.
 - o Striving for any other is sin to God.
 - o Our high calling is of God.
 - o Our faith must be in the blood, in Christ.
- Having not reached it yet, we press toward the mark.
- When apprehension sets in, get back on the mark.
 - o Get faith going, repent of our sin and go again.

- When we fall, tell God we are sin and move on.

1John1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- The true Greek interpretation says “If we confess that we are sin”
- (that we have missed the mark)

John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from sin.”

- This happens at salvation.

John1:8 “If we say that we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

- We must confess that we are sin ,
- or we are deceived;
- We don’t know what the blood does.
- It cleanses 24hrs. a day.

John 1:8 “If we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” John 1:9 “If we confess that we are sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin...”

- If we say we have not sinned,
- we make Jesus a liar, and Jesus does not lie.

Philippians 3:14 “I press toward the mark for the prize..”

- There is a reward that we believe and trust for.
- We are to go after it.
- It is in and with the “high calling of God in Jesus Christ”
 - o We can have peace and joy, all the things we never had.
 - o We can bypass the world and call it refuse.
- Determination pulls rank.
“I press and have chosen to finish the course so that every thought I have and all I possess is filled with knowledge of Christ.”

Phil4:15 “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect..”

- (those the blood has cleansed)
- We are perfect in God’s eyes, not in the flesh.
- We are a finished work in God’s eyes.

“..be thus minded,: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal it to you.”

- The Spirit will bring us back on course,
- back to the cross; the blood;
- to that high calling.

Phil.3 16-18 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:”

- Paul says that he only wants to *know Jesus Christ and him crucified among you.*
- The cross of Christ is what it is all about.
- Anything that denies the cross and it’s power is an enemy of it,
- It is another gospel. Paul says to do as you have seen him do.
- Be determined to finish the course.
- Press on to the high calling, despite any opposition. Meet it!
- Let us fulfill our life. Let our mind be full of, every thought filled with Christ.
- Any man filled with the excellency of that knowledge has unlimited power.
- No enemy can stop him from fulfilling God’s word that he receives and moves on in faith.

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