

Ephesians 6:19 – “(Pray) for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

PRAYER FOR THE PREACHER

Charles Spurgeon has been rightly called the prince of preachers. When asked to explain the success of his pulpit ministry he answered, “My people pray for me.” After Paul had been preaching for more than 20 years, he was requesting prayer. One would think preaching would be automatic and effortless for the great apostle, but it wasn’t. He was aware of his weaknesses and his insufficiency as a minister of the Gospel. He was never unaware of the pressure to compromise the message of Christ. Therefore, Paul requested prayer for his preaching. First, “that utterance may be given to me.” Utterance is translated from “logos,” meaning a word. Jesus is called the Word in the John 1:1, 14. The written word is about the living Word. When Jesus is not the center of preaching, there is nothing to preach. When Jesus is not the motivation for preaching there is no reason to preach. Paul desired prayer that he would preach no other message than Jesus, and that he would preach for no other reason than Jesus. Second, “that I may open my mouth boldly.” Boldly is sometimes translated “freely.” It means out-spoken. A bold person speaks freely without overthinking the words he is going to say. Third, “to make known the mystery of the gospel.” The Gospel is a mystery, because it is outside the ability of natural apprehension. It is made known only by divine revelation. The Gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:1-4). Believing the Gospel is the only way to Heaven. Preachers need prayer support from the saints. Pray they would preach no other message, for no other reason, in the freedom of the Holy Spirit, so people will know the One and only Way to Heaven. If you are faithful to pray for those who preach the good news, Heaven will thank you for it.