

12/28/73

A. A. MacRae

Ephesians 6:10ff.

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This morning I would like to call your attention to a very well known passage in the latter part of the book of Ephesians, starting with vs. 10 of chapter 6 of the Book of Ephesians. The wonderful book is one of the finest in the whole Bible I believe. I think that we can never get to the bottom of the depths of the Book of Eph. It begins with most wonderful doctrinal passages that give us an insight into the very being of God and His purposes for us. And then after these very wonderful doctrinal passages about God and Christ and the Church, then he discusses domestic situations and practical suggestions. Then after that he says, Finally my brethren. Finally -- now we come to the conclusion. And the conclusion here is not a summary. It is not trying simply to repeat in brief what he has given, but to drive home something that after all of these splendid teachings, he thinks it particularly important. Finally, my brethren. Now this word "my brethren" is not found in the earliest MSS. It was marked in the margin of one of the earliest MSS, but is otherwise not in ~~any~~ ^{the few} of the very earliest MSS, but it has been in all later MSS. Therefore most of the present editions of the Greek Testament simply leave the word out, and it may be that it was not in the original. And yet it impresses me that it fits here very very well. Their biggest ~~an~~ argument about leaving it out is that he does not use it elsewhere in the Epistle, and after all there are only six verses? - chapters in the Epistle. It doesn't seem to me that that proves that the word doesn't belong here. But the word certainly does fit. Paul gives these wonderful teachings about God. And then he gives these matters about the relations of people in domestic life and so on, and then he says, Finally, my brethren. Here is something that I need, and you need. Something in which we stand together in the need of this that I am now going to give you. Finally, my brethren, be strong.

Some people have the idea that Christians are weak, are ~~a~~ namby pamby. Christians -
once
I remember/hearing somebody, you know they said. I always thought Christians were just namby-pamby weak people. I never cared to listen to what they said. But then when I heard Dr. MacRae had walked clear across the Grand Canyon and clear back again I decided he wasn't such a weak, namby pamby person, and maybe he was worth listening to! Well, of course it is this misunderstanding that has led to organizations (such as) Christian athletes, and organizations like that to show the world that there is nothing intrinsically