**January 6, 2018 “Carried About by Every Wind of Doctrine” Ephesians 4:11-16**

As we re-direct our focus again to the book of Ephesians, I would remind you that the theme of this book is “unity.” In his letter to the Church at Ephesus, Paul starts out in the first three chapters detailing the incredible blessings that have been bestowed on us as the children of God. Then in chapter 4 and through the rest of the letter, Paul exhorts the children of God to live accordingly.

In our text for today, Paul reminds everyone who is involved in the Church of Jesus Christ that we are all in the same boat heading toward the same goal which is the salvation of our souls and being united with Christ forever through the unity of the faith. (Ephesians 4:13)

Note the progression:

1. Unity of the faith
   1. Refers to Ephesians 4:3 -6
2. Of the “true” knowledge of the Son of God
3. Resulting in
   1. A mature man
4. To the measure of the stature
5. To the fullness of Christ
   1. Referring to John 1:14-18
6. Here is the desired result
   1. We are no longer to be children
      1. Have you ever watched children play?
         1. If there are three of them
            1. One wants to play outside
            2. One wants to play upstairs
            3. One is crying because no one wants to play with them
            4. Boys want to make sounds like dogs, cats and motors
            5. Girls want to dress up, change clothes every 5 minutes or so and scream when being chased by the others kids
   2. Paul is saying this is not how the body of Christ is to function but he does not stop there
7. Carried about or tossed about by three things
   1. By waves and winds of doctrine
   2. By trickery of men
      1. Playing with weighted dice
      2. Legalism which is always tilted in favor of the legalist
   3. Craftiness in deceitful scheming
      1. Things are going to work out for my benefit
8. Waves and winds of doctrine
   1. Paul is using a nautical term
      1. Sargasso Sea
         1. Located east of the Bahamas
         2. Contains within it the Bermuda Triangle
         3. It is the only sea in the world with no coastline
            1. Covers approximately 2M square miles
            2. Noted for calm winds and seaweed which is called “sargassum” hence the name Sargasso Sea
            3. It has four currents affecting it

Gulf Stream to the west

Canary current to the east

North Atlantic current to the north

Atlantic Equatorial Current to the south

* + 1. Not such a big deal to know this today with powered ships
       1. Big deal with sailing ships
       2. The winds in the area blow in a clockwise manner
          1. But with not enough strength to free the ship from the grasp of the currents
       3. As long as the ship did not get to close to the center
       4. They could correct their course and get out of the trap
          1. Found within this sea

Ships populated by skeletons

Ships in perfectly good sailing conditions

Bound by the “sargassum”

Ships stuck in circular sailing patterns

One oceanographer called the area, “a gigantic, slow, very slow, perpetual hurricane”

* 1. I have now been in ministry either in teaching or preaching for more than 40 years
     1. Soul mating
     2. Prayer of binding and loosing
     3. Positive confession
     4. Anointing of things with oil
     5. Binding of demons
     6. Commissioning of angels
     7. Prayer of Jabez
     8. Purpose driven life
     9. Purpose driven church
     10. New Apostolic Reformation
         1. Neither new, nor apostolic, nor Reformational
     11. Course in Miracles
     12. School of the prophets
     13. Spiritual formation
     14. And on and on it goes

1. Problem of the Sargasso Sea
   1. There was no place to anchor the ship
      1. Depths of the sea are from 5,000 feet to 23,000 feet
      2. Without an anchor… drifting is inevitable
2. What is the anchor of the Church of Jesus Christ?
   1. It is the Cross of Calvary
      1. Soteriology… the doctrine of salvation
         1. Look to the Cross of Calvary
         2. You will see the Sinless Son of God dying for you
         3. You will see the perfect cleansing blood of Christ
            1. At the foot of the cross with an easy access for you
         4. You will find salvation full and free
      2. Hamartiology… The doctrine of sin
         1. Look to the Cross of Calvary
         2. There you will see the awfulness of your sin
         3. I will see the awfulness of mine
      3. Ecclesiology… the doctrine of the Church
         1. Look to the Cross of Calvary
            1. You will see the head of the Church
            2. Suffer and die for her
            3. Lay down His life for her to redeem her back to Himself
      4. Angelology… the doctrine of angels
         1. Look to the Cross of Calvary
            1. He could have called legions of angels
      5. Demonology… doctrines of demons
         1. Look to the Cross of Calvary
         2. Satan was defeated
         3. Jesus demanded the keys to death and Hell
            1. Satan had no choice but to obey
      6. Bibliology, Anthropology, Theology, Pneumatology

You see… you don’t anchor your soul to Jerome, or Augustine or Luther or Calvin or Spurgeon, or Swaggart, or Sproul, or Piper or to MacArthur. We, the children of God, are to anchor our souls to the Rock.

That Rock will never move, never be shaken and He will judge the living and the dead.

Is your heart right before God? Can you and I say, to Him without fear… judge the secrets of my heart and see if there be any wicked way found in me?