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A STUDY OF EPHESIANS 6:10-12 IN THE LIGHT OF DEMONIC ACTIVITIES IN
THE CHURCH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DELIVERANCE MINISTRY.

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ABSTRACT

Christians are called into living a fulfilled life in all facet of human life. They are to live the life that is worthy of their call as God intended them. However, life experiences of which they are not excluded show the signal of some spiritual creatures that makes life difficult for them in contrary to that which they are expected to live. That is the thought that underlies this thesis to finding out the reality of the existence of the beings that are mentioned in Eph.6:10-12 and their activities in terrestrial realm of universe. The thesis seeks to exegete the Bible passage in order to adequately contextualize it to the contemporary Church and thereby establish the need of deliverance as a ministry in the Church. The work also sets the basis for deliverance by exploring through the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to deduce where deliverance is practiced and what call for it. Deliverance is defined and the demonic activities are highlighted having perused the views of some Authors. This in essence tells the significance and the purpose of the thesis to include: enlightening the believers to implications of Eph.6:10-12, to sensitize the church especially Pastors to the need of deliverance as a ministry in the Church in this century. The study is significant because it will make the Bible relevant to the believers even at the grassroots. The historical antecedent of the city and of the Church in Ephesus as well as Paul's call to his recipients to clad God's armour and face the Emissaries of darkness in a face-to-face fierce combat make the thesis concludes that: demons exist and they are stratified into classes through which they intrude into human affairs on earth by their strategized and planned activities that are arranged in the heavenly realms of darkness to be executed on earth the terrestrial realm of the universe. And deliverance is a part of life that God calls Christians to live in order to exactly proof their salvation. Then, it is recommended that 1. Deliverance should be recognized as ministry that is needed to live the exact redeemed life. 2. The scripture should be always contextualized by the use of intercultural principle of hermeneutics to make it relevant to the believers at the grassroots. 3. Church Leaders should always be conscious of the historical, cultural and theological antecedents of their parishioners, Church and the society. 4. And they should balance their teachings in every aspects of biblical doctrine. Hence, the Baptist theological institutions should include deliverance in their curriculum.

5.2 CONCLUSION

In consonance with that backdrop, it is then concluded that:

- Demons exist and they work in collaboration with the devil to make life tough for people especially Christians that are making effort to completely walk or live their call from darkness into the light of Jesus Christ.
- The demons are stratified into classes among which there is a class that is directly links to human being to execute their destructive intentions on earth, the terrestrial realm of the universe.
- The demons strategized and planned their activities in the heavenly realm of darkness to be executed among human beings.
- Fierce spiritual combat with the devil and its host otherwise known as deliverance is part of the life that God desire Christians to live on earth.
- Historical antecedents that comprise cultural, social and theological affiliations may serve as demonic linkage.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings in this study that brought about those conclusions led the researcher to the following recommendations:

- Deliverance should be recognized as a ministry that is now needed in the church to aid the believers living the exact redeemed life.

- The scripture should be always contextualized by the use of the intercultural Principle of hermeneutics. This will make it relevant to the believers even at the grassroots.

- Church Leaders especially Pastors should be conscious of the historical, cultural, social, as well as theological antecedents of his parishioners, the church and the society at large. This will help him to make notable impacts in the life of church members as their care giver; and in the society as a priest.

- Pastors should be balanced in his teachings by not emphasizing an aspect of biblical doctrine in detriment of others. For example, overstressing holiness, by denying the work of flesh while condemning deliverance act of ministry.

- The curriculum of all theological Institutions of the Nigerian Baptist Convention should be redesigned to inculcate the needed courses for the ministry in the twenty-first century