



Ephesians

Part 9

Ephesians 1:15-23
Week of May 9, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Ephesians 1:15-23
 - Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>
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For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23, ESV

Sermon Notes

In the power of God through Christ, the chains of death have been broken and the power of life shines through.

Paul brings us to this text about remembering the Immeasurable greatness of His power. Such a great power that is worked toward us who believe is found first and foremost in the work that He has done “in” Christ. Here Paul wants us to ponder the beauty and power that is centered on Christ as a pattern that will be worked in our lives “in Him.” This text tells us (vs. 19b) that the immeasurable greatness of His power that Paul prays we will remember is “according to” is in “proportion”! There is a power at work, as we will survey today, that is a power of Divine work! This is not the great strength of a super hero. This is not some alien who has super “human” strength. This power cannot be described in terms of “human” strength. It is a power that is straight from heaven and Paul claims it is the power that is at work toward you who believe.

The Power of His Resurrection.

- Ephesians 1:20a.
- The resurrection is a declaration of divine identity.
 - *Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
 - Death has become the identity marker for all of those who are from this creation.
 - *Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*
 - If the Cross of Christ were the end, then all would have ended as a tragic story of another one of God's creation oppressed under the ultimate rule of death.
 - The identity marker of the Divine is not death, but life. It is not temporary life, but it is life in abundance. It is life that overwhelms death.
 - This is the power we see in Jesus! The resurrection declares to the whole world “This is the Son of God”, not “the son of destruction”.
- The resurrection declares power over death.
 - *Acts 2:23-24 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*
 - Death tried to consume life. It enjoyed that reign over creation for some time.
 - In the power of God through Christ, the chains of death have been broken and the power of life shines through.
- The resurrection is the power of our faith.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:17-19 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*
 - The beginning of your faith is a declaration that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. Which is a declaration of your holding fast to the resurrection of Christ.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:20-27 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those*

who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."

- The power of His resurrection toward you
 - This is the very pattern that follows in the very next section.
 - The Divine identity you have "in Christ" points back to the blessing of adoption (vs. 4-5)
 - The power displayed in you over death: You are a display of the Life of Christ in a world ruled by death.

The Glory of His Conquering Victory.

- Ephesians 1:20b-22a
- You see that in Ephesians as well as in 1 Corinthians 15 seem to quote the same language in regards to Christ conquering evil. This language comes from Ps. 110, and Ps. 8 combined.
- *Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."*
- *Psalm 8:5-6 "Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,*
- Seated Him at His right hand
 - This exalted position of Christ is a position that can never be challenged. It is an extension of God's power and authority.
- In the heavenly places
 - This great victory is the source of all the blessings from 1:3 that are poured out on us.
 - This identifies the height of his victories.
- Far above all rule, authority, power, dominion.
 - The first century world believed that there was battle fought every day that secured the rule of Rome by powers that could not be seen.
 - Rome even proclaimed this in writing and inscriptions throughout the empire. Rome had a divine right to rule all the world because the gods had declared it in their victorious battle in the heavens.
 - This was a fight that was happening right now.
- The glory of His conquering victory toward you.
 - The victory that has been won is not just over the ultimate judgment of death. It is over the oppression of any force waging war on you today.
 - This is very important to the thought here in Ephesians. Later, Paul exclaims...
 - *Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
 - The fight you are in right now is a battle against forces that you cannot see. The beauty of the power of Christ's victory is that all enemies have been subdued under His feet.
 - Paul can confidently claim this as a present reality because of the guarantee of the day of redemption.
 - Those here today who are struggling in this life. You are struggling against an enemy who has already lost.
 - There is no power or ruler who has claim over you or this world. This is true with the struggle in your family, at your job, and wherever else you face the conflicting powers arise in you.

The greatest hope we have is to be completely consumed in the power of God through Christ Jesus. The first part of Chapter 1 focused on all of the blessing that flow from being "in Christ." This section focuses on the resurrection and victory of being "in Christ." The old covenant was a covenant between God and man. The covenant we have with God in Christ is a covenant between God in himself. It is a perfect covenant, it is fulfilled in perfect obedience, it is an all-powerful covenant. A covenant of Grace, Love, and Redemption. Are you "in Christ" today?

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- Describe the scope of the victory of Jesus Christ as depicted by Paul in our bible passages today. Identify which words speaks to the victory of Jesus Christ and how these impact our life.
- How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ depict the glory of God in all the world? What does being "in Christ" mean for us?
- What does it mean that Christ's victory is both for later for all eternity and for now?
- What are some of the common struggles with face with putting Christ first in our lives? How do we set our goal on being in Christ?
- Do you find any hope in the fact that everything you struggle with has been conwuered by Jesus Christ on the cross? What does this mean for the person who struggles with temptations and rough situations in life?

Challenge For The Week

Jesus Christ and His work on the cross is an immeasurable greatness that far exceeds our ability to understand Furthermore, we must not forget that this gift was given to us by grace.

- Find a quiet time today and ask God to reveal the parts of your life that you need to wage war on your sin. Invite the strength of His grace and His already accomplished victory to fight the battle against the flesh for you.
- Who do you know that needs to experience the greatness of God's immeasurable greatness? Invite them to church this week or invite them to coffee to share your testimony with them.

