

Ephesians 1.15-23

Do you Know Who you Have?

Wm Randolph HEARST Name like Zuckerberg, Jobs, Gates from Last Century

Was Wealthy, Publisher – and VORACIOUS ART LOVER

Mr. HEARST Heard of Valuable Piece of Art HE MUST HAVE
EMPLOYED AGENT TO FIND IT - SEARCHED FOR MONTHS

AFTER A TWO YEAR SEARCH - HE FOUND IT!!!

STORED IN WAREHOUSE OF WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

TYPICAL PAUL's NT LETTER - Blessing / Thanksgiving / Prayer

SAME FORMAT - TAKES ENTIRE CHAPTER TO DO SO

vs. 3 - 14 TRUTHS of SALVATION Past, Present, Future / Father-Son-Spirit

1. Praise that leads to Prayer

PAUL wanted Ephesians to TO KNOW RICHES they HAD now IN X

SOME XTIANs ARE SEEKING 2nd BLESSING

NEVER UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST Already

a. Paradox of Prayer

IF GOD HAS WORKED OUT OUR SALVATION - from Beginning to End

THEN WHY PRAY?? IS IT USELESS??

Diff Btwn - CHRISTIAN PREDESTINATION & ISLAMIC FATALISM

CLEARLY SEEN Recent Crane Collapse in Mecca @ Kaaba

Interview with Meccan Official – GREAT BLESSING – Worshippers in Heaven

Like SUICIDE Bombers Taken Directly to PARADISE > Embrace 70 VIRGINS

YES! DISASTER is Act of God > We're Commanded to Do Something About It

God is SOVEREIGN & we are RESPONSIBLE to Love Neighbors Sacrificially

Not Surprising MILLIONS of Syrians running OUT of ISLAMIC World
 NOT Getting helped among MUSLIM FATALISTS > Running to EUROPE
 Seed of GOSPEL may be DORMANT, Christian Values of Hospitality FABRIC
 Crisis > SET INTO MOTION Xtian ARMY OF PRAYER AND SERVICE

"For Paul, the knowledge that God was working was an inducement to prayer, not an excuse for neglecting it. It was because God was at work that he could pray with confidence."
 James Boice

WHY PRAY IF GOD IS NOT AT WORK? NOT IN CONTROL?

ONLY HE CAN SAVE MAN?

v. 15,16 "for this reason...I have not stopped"

GOD USES PRAYER - Part of Process - ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE
 BALANCE - DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY & HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES BOTH - even in same verse

Jesus: "The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."
 Luke 22.22

GOD ORDAINED DEATH of JESUS- JUDAS GUILTY of BETRAYAL

J.I. PACKER - Illustration from Modern Physics

LIGHT - SOLID EVIDENCE it consists of WAVES

SOLID EVIDENCE it consists of PARTICLES

CANNOT EXPLAIN HOW it is BOTH - CANNOT DENY it is EITHER

GOD who PLANS ALL THINGS -

GOD to whom WE PRAY about ALL THINGS

b. Prompting to Prayer

v. 15 because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints

GOSPEL TRANSFORMED both their BELIEFS and THEIR BEHAVIOR

FAITH SHOWED ITSELF IN LOVE - NEED BOTH FAITH & WORKS

Faith is patience with the lamp lit.

Tertullian

live a life worthy of the calling you have received

Ephesians 4.1

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

Ephesians 5.1

ESSENCE OF PROTESTANT REFORMATION -

NOT FAITH AND WORKS - FAITH THAT WORKS

SAVED BY FAITH ALONE - TRUE FAITH IS NEVER ALONE

1st Record of Paul's Christian Life – BLINDED but BORN Again in Damascus

GOD tells Ananias "...look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying"
Acts 9.11

BEST WAY to GAIN LOVE FOR SOMEONE - PRAY FOR THEM - ALL

Paul SHOWS BIBLICAL WAY TO SHOW ENCOURAGEMENT

It takes no special skill to see what is wrong with people, and to criticize them. But to see people robed in a righteousness not their own and to encourage them on this basis to be more of what they should be powerfully communicates the heart of Christ.
Bryan Chapell

HOW TO FUEL A PERSONS PRIDE - praise them for something they do

HOW TO MAKE A PERSON DISCOURAGED - ignore the good they do

PASTOR PAUL'S GREAT EXAMPLE

v. 16 "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers"

c. Persistence in Prayer

v. 16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you” // v. 17 “I keep asking”

Paul follows own command “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5.17

Constant AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE / WALKING WITH HIM

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty”
Psalm 90.1

2. Prayer that leads to Power

TRUTHS OF SALVATION MUST BE "KNOWN" AND "LOVED"

Ephesians – GREW to be Doctrinally Sound/ Spiritually cold-

Jesus will tell them to Return to First Love – Letter to Church Revelation 2

LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL HEART - SOUL - MIND - STRENGTH

"Faith goes beyond reason, but rests on it. Knowledge is the ladder by which faith climbs higher, the springboard from which it leaps further...Thus knowledge and faith need each other. Faith cannot grow without a firm basis of knowledge; knowledge is sterile if it does not bring forth faith" John Stott

a. Power of Christ

It in his prayers that we see Paul’s great depth of wisdom and knowledge

Prayer For Knowledge of God - OUR GREATEST NEED - KNOW GOD

v. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

ATHEIST - There is No God to Know

AGNOSTIC - Does Not Know what he Can Know

APOSTLE- KNOWS God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Glorious Father,

WANTS US TO know him better.

PASTOR TRIED to Talk W/ BOY AFTER CHURCH

PASTOR "I hope you learned alot about God today. If you tell me one thing God can do, I'll give you a big juicy apple"

BOY "Pastor, if you tell me one thing God CANNOT do, I'll give you a whole box of apples"

FLOWER CHILD who became an Acoustic Theologian

"you can go to your college, you can go to your school, but if you don't know Jesus, you are an educated fool" Barry McGuire

CHRISTIAN Message – NOT PRIMARILY about GETTING or even BEING Preachers “God going to GIVE you Something or MAKE you Someone”
EVEN Better if Give MONEY to their MINISTRIES!!

PAUL > God wants to GIVE YOU the LOVE OFFERING > to KNOW HIM

vs. 19-21 immeasurable greatness of his power...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

Paul uses 5 Different Greek words for POWER – Ephesus Center of Dark Power

JESUS PREDICTED OWN RESURRECTION- NEVER DONE BEFORE
WHAT POWER on EARTH COULD ACCOMPLISH SUCH MIRACLE? None

APOSTLE PETER PREACHED ON DAY OF PENTECOST

God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2.24

FOR CHRIST TO REMAIN DEAD WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE

"How much power was necessary to take Christ, crucified, mutilated, disgraced, and dead, and to raise him in newness of life, radiant, triumphant, glorious, and place him at the right hand of God on his throne at the right hand of God on his throne in heaven? That same power is ours, if we trust in Christ, if we are members of his body, if we belong to his Church" Charles Erdman

Resurrection of Jesus – COSMIC Shift of Power Center – Earth to HEAVEN

Jesus has TRIUMPHED and Entered “the heavenlies” – We are Risen with Him

To know Christ is to know His benefits.

Philip Melanchton

vs. 20,21 seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

MANY NAMES OF SO-CALLED GODS OF ANCIENT EPHESUS

Diana or Artemis - gods of Rome - CAESARS - gods of Greece

PAUL DOES NOT DIGNIFY THEM TO MENTION BY NAME

FULFILLMENT OF DAVID'S WORDS

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." Psalm 110.1

JESUS IS SAVIOR - HE IS ALSO SOVEREIGN- NO GREATER POWER

FROM GOVERNMENTS TO GALAXIES - NO ONE GREATER

by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death Hebrews 2.14

b. Present in the Church - EPHESIANS is the LETTER of the CHURCH

v. 22 And God...appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

FILLS THE UNIVERSE - FILLS THE CHURCH IN A SPECIAL WAY

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18.20

THREE POSSIBLE TRANSLATIONS

v. 23 "the fullness of him who fills everything in every way"

1) DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST? - Christ is fullness of God

UNSOUND VIEW OF GODHEAD "The fullness of the Godhead is said to be in Christ, but Christ is never said to be the fullness of God"

2) DESCRIPTION OF CHURCH - Church makes Christ Full / Complete

NOT IN TERMS OF HIS PERSON - BUT HIS WORK what He came to do

VINE/BRANCHES HEAD/BODY GROOM/BRIDE

TRUE TO SCRIPTURE BUT NOT CONTEXT -

CHRIST STANDS ALONE IN POWER - INDEPENDENT

***3) THAT WHICH CHRIST FILLS - Christ fills the Church//Universe

FULLNESS OF DEITY IS IN CHRIST & HE FILLS THE CHURCH

Church is where Christ is

a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit Ephesians 2.22

The church is God's instrument for world transformation and renewal...Paul's words do not frame a political, marketing, or military strategy but, rather, are a blueprint for the ministry of the local church...so that by her proclamation of the gospel in word and deed her people will be prepared to advance his kingdom

Bryan Chapell

Oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him - endless energy, boundless strength! All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from

his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. Ephesians 1.19-23 The Message

c. Proven by the Christian

v. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened

THIS SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS - JUDGMENT FROM GOD

the people...walk like blind men, because they have sinned Zephaniah 1.17

POWER OF SINFUL NATURE NARRATED

Gentiles...the futility of their thinking... darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts Ephesians 4.17-19

1) Past Confirms our Future v. 18 hope to which he has called you

WE'RE CALLED BY GRACE - THROUGH THE GOSPEL - INTO HOPE

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace Galatians 1.15

him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light 1 Peter 2.9

the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ 1 Peter 5.10

WORTH NOT DETERMINED BY BACKGROUND BUT BY CALLING

PHILLIP HENRY - father of Matthew Henry - 16th C - ENGLAND

Christian young man fell in love with - young lady "higher" class

AS A CHRISTIAN - THIS DID NOT MATTER TO HER

HER PARENTS - SAW AS OBSTACLE TO ANY MARRIAGE

"this man, Philip Henry, "they asked "where has he come from?"

THE FUTURE MRS. HENRY SAID -

"I do not know where he came from, but I know where he is going"

BIBLICAL HOPE IS NOT "hope so" = Like child who hopes for new toy

BIBLICAL HOPE IS CONFIDENT, ASSURANCE

we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God...and hope does not disappoint us

Romans 5.2,5

2) Future Experienced in the Present

v. 18 the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints

TWO EQUALLY POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS

1) We receive an inheritance from God 2) We are God's inheritance

FIRST IS MORE LIKELY BECAUSE OF CONTEXT - BOTH ARE TRUE

v. 14 Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession

the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1.12

PRAYS WE'LL KNOW- Where we Came from AND Where we're Going

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER - WORLD'S FIRST BILLIONAIRE

For many years SO WORRIED lived on Milk & Crackers – Help STOMACH

RARELY GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP - GUARDS STOOD OUTSIDE DOOR

Until he began Giving LARGE SUMS of Money Away

Great Philanthropic efforts IMPROVED HEALTH - Lived to Old Age

TO NOT STAND CONFIDENTLY IN CHRIST IS SIN - OF UNBELIEF

3) Present v. 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe

WOMAN WENT TO HOSPITAL TO SEE HER AILING HUSBAND

Needed his Signature to Release Finances to Pay the Bills

HE WAS TOO WEAK TO SIGN NAME - she needed witness to watch "X"

HIS WEAKNESS NEARLY WITHHELD THEIR WEALTH FROM HER

WE HAVE A PERSONAL POWER SHORTAGE

OUR GET UP AND GO - JUST GOT UP AND WENT

Even youths grow tired & weary, and young men stumble and fall Isaiah 40.30

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3.10,11

NATURE OF RESURRECTION POWER EXPERIENCED

fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

No Great Joy for Parents > BIRTH of Child > No Worse PAIN Birth DEFECT

Parents discovered Child was DEAF – Their WORLD came to an END

PARALYZED with Fear and Uncertainty – NO IDEA what to DO

Met parents of Deaf Child – Encouraged Them, Connected Them, Helped Them

Parents: “Meeting Helpful Parents > Like entering Room never knew Existed”

Risen Jesus POWER to take us into NEW REALMS of Healing and Grace

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

WHEN PAUL CONFESSED HIS WEAKNESS - GOD TOLD HIM

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's
power may rest on me. 2 Corinthians 12:9

GOLD IS REFINED BY FIRE - TESTS AND PURIFIES ITS QUALITY

God does not make us into storage batteries, and He does not give power at the
beginning of each month, or week, or even day. It is a moment-by-moment
contact in communion with our God. Harry Ironside

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the
strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him
who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the
LORD Jeremiah 9:23,24

NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT - TO KNOW TRUE AND LIVING GOD

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom you have sent. John 17.3

Ephesians 1¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord
Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that 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, ¹⁸having 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his
power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that
he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right
hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far 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. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over
all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in
all.