

## “The power of God to those who believe”

Ephesians 1:19-23

Paul prays that their knowledge would lead to an understanding of the hope they can have rooted in the power of God.

### The power of God demonstrated... (*power: “dunamis” – dynamite*)

#### 1. In Christ’s Resurrection (v. 20)

- a. It is a supernatural event that demonstrates power over life and death (Romans 8:34; Heb. 2:14,15)
  - i. The resurrection reverses the laws of nature – order to chaos, life to death.
  - ii. In a culture that was deep into the cult, magic, astrology, spirit-forces – Here Paul claims the true supernatural authority is demonstrated in the resurrection of the dead.
- b. It accomplishes what we could not (1 Cor. 15:20-22)
  - i. The covenant curse – in Adam we all die
  - ii. The covenant fulfillment – in Christ we are made alive
- c. It is the hope for the “already but not yet” for every believer
  - i. In the overlap of the ages (this age and the age to come) we can know that we have the power of the resurrection at work in us now, and one day we will fully be made new

#### 2. In Christ’s Exaltation (vv. 20-21)

- a. It is a supernatural event that demonstrates power over all authorities
  - i. Seated – Christ’s work is finished, his rule is inaugurated
  - ii. To be at the right hand of God – position of favor, victory, and power (Psalm 110:1)
  - iii. He possesses the full authority of the Father over all things from the heavenly places
    1. Every spiritual force (rule, authority, power, dominion) and even death are subject to the risen, exalted King
- b. It accomplishes what we could not (Psalm 8:4-6)
  - i. Adam, made in God’s image to rule and have dominion, failed.
  - ii. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, succeeded (Heb. 2:5-9; 1 Cor. 15:25-27)
- c. It is the hope for the “already but not yet” for every believer
  - i. The hope of our calling (past), the riches of our inheritance (future), His power toward us (now) – Christ’s exaltation and authority guarantee that which is promised to us. He has the power to see it come to fruition.

### The hope for the church rooted...

#### 1. In Christ’s headship of the church

- a. The personal and intimate relationship that Christ has with his church
  - i. The fullness of Him...The church is the one filled by Christ
  - ii. The metaphors that speak of the church’s union with Christ
    1. The body to the head, the branches to the vine, the bridegroom to the bride, the sheep to the shepherd
- b. The powerful and ruling dynamic of Christ directing, guiding, and sustaining his church
  - i. The local and global church is ruled by Christ.
  - ii. The King over the church is the one who has conquered death and evil and thus empowers the church to proclaim new life and hope in the midst of death and decay.

#### 2. In Christ’s Lordship over all things

- a. The church is the unique beneficiary of Christ’s lordship over all things
  - i. His supremacy over the world is for the benefit of His people
  - ii. He has subjected all things under his rule and now governs and rules his creation and his Church for their edification and his glory
- b. God’s people share in His power and glory
  - i. His power is for us (v. 19)
    1. “All the divine graces which reside in Him are imparted to [the church].” – J.B. Lightfoot
  - ii. We have the unique position of being empowered by the true King through His Spirit to share in this power and to demonstrate to the world true authority, true dominion, and true power.
    1. The church is the new community communicating to the watching world the way things can be and the way things one day will be.