

Power: Defined & Delivered

Ephesians 1:19-23 Sunday AM, May 28, 2023

Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NASB95)

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

With his identity and mission firmly fixed with and under Christ, Paul gives testimony to God's grace to all His saints. What gracious gifts do these saints receive from God? **Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.** And what blessings they are! Saints are specifically chosen by God and given a mission. They are redeemed from their debt of sin and separation from God and are adopted as beloved children. They are given a place in the perfect purposes of God, and they are sealed with the Holy Spirit who works in them not only to change them and give them a useful life here, but also to remind them of God's promises which lead to an inheritance only fully seen when in heaven with the One whose possession we are. All this leads Paul into a prayer of thanksgiving to God for these saints at Ephesus. I praise and thank-you God for your great and gracious mercies toward these believers. Help them see more of these blessings so they will be faithful to Your purpose for calling them. Christian, looking to God will not only show you more of the sin that separates you from a holy God, but it will also show you the source of true hope and the way to a glorious, secure position which will give you confidence to live according to the good will of God! Sing the hope of the gospel. No merit of my own, his anger to suppress, my only hope is found in Jesus' righteousness. What in your mind and life fights against this being true? Sing this deep into your heart until it uncovers and removes all other hopes.

*Hymn #406: My Hope Is in the Lord

Paul continues praying, I pray that these saints would know **"the surpassing greatness of [God's] power toward us who believe."** What kind of power? The kind that is in **"accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."** The raise from the dead part looms large for us, but how about God becoming man--What does that mean? Not mean? The holy came in contact with the profane—how could He still be holy to once again sit and rule with the Father in heaven? Much to ponder even while some goes beyond our understanding, but in Paul's prayer, we start seeing power with a purpose. Notice in this song, God's grace **clothes you with power to do what is right.** IF God can raise Christ from the dead after carrying the sins of the redeemed, then He can give life to your mortal bodies.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Grace Unmeasured *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Come, Christians Join to Sing

Scripture: Revelation 11:15–12:12 (NASB95)

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."** ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, **"We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign."** ¹⁸ "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm. ¹ A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; ² and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven; and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. ⁴ And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. ⁵ And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ⁷ And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, **"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."** ¹¹ "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." ¹² "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

Offering: *Doxology: The power of God described as Paul prays does not stop with Christ's resurrection. It continues with Christ's preeminence and worth. He is **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.** We heard this in Revelation. **"We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign."** Nations raged, devil fought—dragon—somehow, these seem to be more of real power for us—we are afraid of or want control of these. But over the top of the noise of these competing authorities comes a greater power. **"I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come.'"** Why? How do you know? **for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.** And where is that authority seen right now? **"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,"** ²³ **which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.** Sing this wonderful power. Praise Him who saves you by His grace! Sing the final verse by turning back to Hymn 96 where we sing of the day when we will sing with ALL those He has redeemed.

*Hymn #97, 96: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

You may be seated. His power is used to save you, change you, use you. As Pastor Jahn preaches about this power, ask God to help you yield to His Lordship over the process and circumstances of your growth, change, and service. Why this song? You need to know how to call to God when your lights are going out, when you are yielding to sin rather than fighting it because fellowship with God seems impossible to maintain, when your world shrinks because you feel you can't deal with them, even the "them" God would have you deal with in the local body of believers, in your household, or your co-workers, neighbors, or relatives. Call, God is the deliverer. Don't focus on the answer you need, but on the God who saves. THIS is the posture of belief in God in broken world—I must obey your calling and I recognize that hope in that calling comes from the God of hope!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Lord, from Sorrows Deep I Call

Message: Power: Defined and Delivered Ephesians 1:19-23 *Hymn #191: Power in the Blood *Prayer