

THE GLORIOUS BODY OF CHRIST

July 1, 2012

Eph 1:19b – 23 These are 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, 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. And He put all things in subjection 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.

I. Review:

A. When the eyes of our hearts are enlightened, we will know three things:

1. What is the hope of His calling,
God wants us to know what our individual calling (gifts, grace and ministry).
Such knowledge should bring hope (expectation) in our life.
2. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
We are to know that our life counts and matters to God.
3. The greatness of His power toward us who believe.
The very power that raised Jesus from the dead is available every day. Christ has already won the victory over sin, death, the world and Satan. We do not fight for victory but from victory. He has all the power that we need for every situation!

B. These (three things) are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

II. Study of Eph 1:19

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power (dunamis) toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working (energeia) of the strength (ischuos) of His might (kratos)

A. Paul uses four words here, all having the general meaning of "power;"

- 1) "power" (Gk. = dunamis) means "natural ability, general and inherent;"
- 2) "working" (Gk. = energeia) means "power in exercise, operative power;"
- 3) "strength" (Gk. = ischuos) means "strength, power as an endowment."
- 4) "mighty" (Gk. = kratos) means "manifested strength;"

B. The Father's exaltation of Christ:

He raised him from the dead.
He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places
He put all things in subjection under His feet
He gave Him as head over all things to the church

III. The authority of Jesus

A. It is above all (literally "over above"):

1. Rule = rule of government, literally "a first one, a leader,"

"Rule" can speak of human position.

Tit 3:1-2 Christians are to be submissive to those in authority.

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

Ro 8:38-39 there is no power that can separate us from God's love.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"Rule" (most of the time) speaks of spiritual powers.

1 Co 15:24-25 Jesus is abolishing all powers of darkness.

then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

Eph 3:10-11 God is making his wisdom known to the spiritual powers of darkness.

in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Eph 6:12 our battle is against spiritual powers of darkness.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Col 1:16 Jesus is the creator of all rulers of authority.

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

Col 2:15 Jesus stripped the devil of all his power

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

2. Authority = force, power or strength; it is used 103 times in the New Testament.

Vine's Dictionary defines this word as:

from the meaning of "leave or permission," or liberty of doing as one pleases, it passed to that of "the ability or strength with which one is endued," then to that of the "power of authority," the right to exercise power, e. g., Mt 9:6; 21:23; 2 Co 10:8;

"the power of rule or government," the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others, e. g., Mt 28:18; Jn 17:2; Jude 25; Rev 12:10; 17:13;

apostolic "authority," 2 Co 10:8; 13:10;

3. Power = dunamis; ability or capability to perform something

4. Dominion = denotes lordship

5. Every name that is named

Vincent says, "And every name that is named. And has a collective and summary force — and in a word. Every name, etc. Whatever a name can be given to. "Let any name be uttered, whatever it is, Christ is above it; is more exalted than that which the name so uttered affirms" (Meyer). Compare Philip. 2:9. "We know that the emperor precedes all, though we cannot enumerate all the ministers of his court: so we know that Christ is placed above all, although we cannot name all" (Bengel). (from Word Studies in the New Testament)

B. Jesus has all authority:

Jesus is the Lord of lords and King of kings and through His death has all authority and power.

Eph 1:20-22 which He brought about 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 every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Phil 2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

(See also Mat 11:27; Luke 1:32-33; 10:22; John 3:35; 5:22-27; 13:3; 17:2; Acts 2:36; 10:36; Rom 14:9; 1 Cor 15:27; Heb 1:2 2:8; 1 Pe 3:22; Rev 11:15; 17:14; 19:16; Old Testament prophetic words concerning the authority and Lordship of Jesus Ps 110:1-3; Isa 9:6-7; Dan 7:14)

C. Jesus has defeated all the powers of darkness, all His enemies are under His feet.

Jesus is seated in heaven as the victor over all the powers of darkness and He has now given to us (His Church) His authority and power to do the business of His kingdom work.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Mat 11:27)

John 3:35 "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God,
(See also 1 Cor 15:23-28; Gen 3:15; Ps 8:6; 91:13)

IV. The authority of the believer:

A. The Name of Jesus

Through the name of Jesus you are saved, healed delivered, made righteous and forgiven. You can believe in the Name of Jesus and refuse discouragement, depression, sickness, fear and broken relationships. You are made whole and called by this great Name!

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Heb 2:8 You have put all things in subjection under His feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

Heb 10:12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

1 Peter 3:21 ... Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

B. Using our authority - the name of Jesus:

1. Salvation

Rom 10:13 for "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Acts 2:21 'and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 10:43; 15:17; 22:16)

1 John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 3:23)

2. Deliverance

Mt 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

Mk 16:17 "And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, ..."

Acts 16:18 But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. (Acts 19:12-16)

3. Healing - Acts chapters 3 and 4 is the account of Peter and John healing the lame man by the Temple gate called beautiful. Notice how they heal this man through the name of Jesus in the following versus.

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!"

Acts 3:16 "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:10-12 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead-- by this name this man stands here before you in good health. "He is the Stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Ac 4:29-30 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence, while Thou dost extend Thy hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Thy holy servant Jesus. "

James 5:14-15 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

4. Miracles

Ac 8:12-13 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Mt 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

5. Answered prayer

Jn 14:12-14 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

Jn 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

Jn 16:23 "And in that day you will ask Me no question. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you shall ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name."

V. The Body Of Christ:

A. Jesus is the Head

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

Col 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church;

Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Col 2:19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

B. The Church is the many membered Body of Christ

Rom 12:4-5 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (1 Cor 10:17; 12:12, 20; Gal 3:28; Eph 3:6; 4:4; 5:30; Col 1:18; 2:19)

1. Each member is vitally connected to the other members

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

2. Each member is to function at the direction of the Head

Eph 1:21-22 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. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

3. Each member is totally dependent on the other members

1 Cor 12:21-22 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

1 Cor 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

4. Each member has an important place of function

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

C. The Open Bible makes this comment about the church:

Observation alone cannot reveal the awesome nature of the church, the body of Jesus Christ. It appears to be a human institution that serves religious purposes, but the Bible tells quite a different story.

First, the church is the congregation of all believers in Jesus Christ from all places and times (Eph. 2:19, 20; Heb. 12:23). It is all born-again men, women, and children called out of every tribe and nation (Rev. 5:9).

Second, the church is the bride of Christ, which will live and reign with Him throughout all eternity (Eph. 5:31, 32; Rev. 19:7).

Third, the church is entrusted with the mission of world evangelization during this age (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8).

Fourth, the church exists in local congregations, which gather regularly for worship, instruction, fellowship, and outreach (Acts 2:42; 14:23; Rev. 1:4).

Fifth, the Holy Spirit gives the church leadership and spiritual abilities to bring its members to maturity in life and ministry (1 Cor. 12:4–11; Eph. 4:11–16).