

EPHESIANS 1:21-23 THE MAJESTY AND POWER OF CHRIST

We come to the ending of this great prayer of Paul and chapter 1, which is in many ways the greatest of which the Apostle Paul ever wrote. (Jones) There is none so strengthening to faith, nothing which so enables us to continue in the Christian life and warfare, as a realization of these things. When we look at Christ and all the things He has done for us, our physical problems, psychological problems, and even spiritual problems will not loom so important for us. How important it is to gaze in on His glory, holiness power, and majesty.

We must look at these glorious doctrines and exercise our minds and senses, that we begin to have some kind of understanding of what God has done for the body of Christ.

1. SURPASSES THE POWER OF ANGELIC BEINGS 1:21

Far above (HUPERANO) over above

The following terms were traditional Jewish terms to designate angelic beings of great rank and might.

For us, it means that the power of Christ far surpasses the hosts of Satan who try to defeat it. The cosmic war between God and His angelic hosts and Satan's demons is a matter of great importance in Scripture.

A. RULE (ARCHE) leader, first one, principality

B. AUTHORITY (EXOUSIA) delegated authority, power

C. POWER (DUNAMIS) Might

D. DOMINION (KURIOTES) Lordship

E. EVERY NAME Let any name be uttered

Phil 2:9-11

F. AGE (AION) age, present state and future state

Redemption is a demonstration of God's power before the angels

Eph 3:10

Our conflict today is with these fallen angels who try to halt our serving the Lord. Eph 6:12

2. HEAD OF THE CHURCH 1:22-23

God wants us to realize the greatness of His power that is working in us, and to know exactly how it works. That is what the last 2 verses are about. Here, we understand how the power of Christ comes into us. It is how the power of God actually operates in us. We must realize the energy we need comes to us from and through Christ the head of the body.

A. ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION (HUPUTASSO) To put in subjection under one—military term

Psalm 8:6, Hebrews 2:8

B. HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Source and center of the life of the church, the Controller of all things
Controller of the nervous system There is not a part of the body which is not controlled by nerves and the nervous system. The life in every muscle and in its every part is conveyed to it by nerve energy and power. And all the nerves can be traced to the brain, which is in the head. It controls all the energy of the body.

We have no life apart from Him.

In every muscle there is life and power supplied by the nerve that goes to it. To develop a muscle we must exercise it. It makes use of the power that it receives from the brain through the nerve. Do not expect the Lord to take the lusts out of you. Exercise the power in you. Make use of the spiritual muscles. The way to receive more power is to use and exercise the power you have.

All parts are bound together.

Ekklesia—body of called out individuals

I am a very small member of the body of Christ, but I am a member.

I am related to the nerve center. His energy is in me. We are in Him.

C. BODY

Soma—organic body Eph 4:4

Pictures of the church in Ephesians--building, household, empire, bride

We are like an empire in that Rome was the great central seat of authority, but she has her people scattered throughout the world, and various officers who govern the empire.

Vine

We are all joined to the body 1 Cor 12:13 We are united to Christ.

We are somehow attached or joined to one another. This is a living connection. We are not loosely connected. It is a union or unity.

You will always be in the body of Christ.

Fulness (Pleroma) That which is or has been filled, used of a ship inasmuch as it is filled with sailors, rowers, and soldiers. In the NT the body of believers are filled with the presence, power, agency, riches of God in Christ (Thayer)

The meaning, being, that the Church being the body of Christ, is dwelt in and filled with God. It is His pleroma in an especial manner-His fullness abides in it and is exemplified by it. (Alford)

The Church is not only Christ's body but that which is filled by Him/ (Expositors)

Christ is not only the head of the Church but its fullness.

Col 2:9---In Eph 1:23, we are told that in the same way, and by the same analogy, the fullness of the Son is in the Church which is His body.(Jones)

His fullness is in the Church. All His life is in us.-2 Pet 1:4

1 Cor 12:27

Christ needs His body. The head needs a body. As a head must have a body to manifest the glory of that head, so the Lord must have the Church to manifest His glory. Eph 3:10 He has chosen us to display His incomparable majesty.

Christ is incomplete until the Church which is His body, is complete.

3. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US ?

God has given all to Christ for the sake of the church which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all. He gives His fullness to believers.

John Calvin: "This is the highest honor of the Church that until He is united to us, the Son of God reckons Himself in some measure incomplete.

Not until we are in His presence does He possess all His parts, nor does He wish to be regarded as complete."

The body is being completed, perfected. The child has all that is needed

But he will grow and develop and attain to a certain maturity.

What is true of Him is true of us. Rom 5 and 6 were in Adam, now in Christ

Heb 1:14, Psalm 2:7-9, 1 Cor 3:21-23, 1 Cor 6:2-3, Rev 3:21,
Then, why do I have to suffer? Heb 12:6, Psalm 119:67,71, 2 Cor 4:17

The point of this great prayer is that we might understand how secure we are in Christ and how unwavering and immutable is our hope of eternal inheritance. The power of glorification is invincible and is presently operative to bring us to glory.