

Series: Ephesians
Title: Power of His Exaltation
Text: Ephesians 1: 19-23
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Today, we will look again at “the exceeding greatness of God’s power to usward who believe.” The apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that God might enlighten the eyes of their understanding that they might know more...

Ephesians 1: 19...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Our text uses the strongest words possible to declare the power God worked to raise Christ from the dead. “The exceeding greatness of his power.” It means the super-excellent, super-excelling, super-surpassing, super-abounding, super-triumphing greatness of his power. “According to the working of his mighty power.” It literally means “The effectual working of the might of his strength:” God’s power is irresistible and effectual. Our text declares the same exceeding greatness of power was mightily worked to usward who believe as was worked when he raised Christ and gave him glory.

Last time, we focused on the act of raising Christ itself. It was the exceeding greatness of the power of God’s justice, faithfulness, grace and love that raised Christ from the dead. This power was worked to usward who believe because every elect child was raised in Christ when he was raised—justice-satisfied demanded it, God’s faithfulness demanded it, and God’s grace and love to usward who believe demanded it.

Today, our subject will be: Power of His Exaltation

Proposition: The exceeding greatness of power which worked when he raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to glory was exceeding great power to usward who believe because he made Jesus both Lord and Christ--Head over all things to the church.

Divisions: 1) Christ’s exaltation and power as Lord over all 2) Christ’s exaltation and power as Head-Lord and Savior-over his church; 3) The power worked toward his church as Lord and Savior.

I. CHRIST’S EXALTATION AND POWER AS LORD OVER ALL—God the Father exalted Jesus of Nazareth when he—**V20...raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: and hath put all things under his feet.**

He is Lord Over All

It means Jesus, the GodMan, is Lord. He came down as God the Son, he returned as the GodMan. This one who is both God and Man in one body is Lord over all. God the Father is so pleased with his Son and the work his Son finished on earth, that the Father exalted his Son “far above all.”

Jesus is Lord over “all principalities.” It means Christ Jesus is Lord over every form of government in heaven and in earth. The Lord Jesus is over “all power, over all might, over all dominion.” It means anyone in heaven or earth, visible or invisible, who has power: good angels and bad angels, all earthly civil magistrates, even the devil

himself either receives their power from him or can only do what he allows them to do, all are ruled by him, all are accountable to him, and all are set up and put down by him at his pleasure.

The Lord Jesus is “over every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.” This expresses the extensiveness of Christ’s kingdom: of his glory and power. It extends to both worlds—heaven and earth. Also, it expresses the eternality of our Savior’s rule as Lord—his rule as Lord is “not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.”

Application: Do you see how the power worked toward him, when the Father exalted him to this resurrection glory was power worked toward usward who believe? Brethren, it is comforting knowing God is absolutely sovereign to rule all things for the good of his people. But even more comforting knowing this is he who loved us and gave his life for us. He is not only God but Man like we—he knows the feeling of our infirmities. Our Lord and Savior has authority and power to dispose and subdue all things, to work his sovereign will effectually, FOR US HIS PEOPLE, without any hindrance from any powers that be, visible or invisible. Oh, what a comfort!

II. NOW LET’S SEE JESUS EXALTATION AND POWER AS HEAD OF HIS CHURCH—V22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Head Over All Things to the Church

God the Father put all things under his feet and gave his Son to be, v22, “Head over all things to the church.” Christ being Head over the church includes two things. One, it means Christ is Lord—he has the rule over us, and within us, who are called, like a Husband has the rule over his wife. Two, it means Christ is the Savior of his body, his church.

Ephesians 5:23: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Application: Wives, the reason God charges you to be in subjection to your husbands in everything is because it glorifies the churches subjection to Christ our Husband our Head--“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” (Eph 5: 24) Likewise, husbands, the reason God charges us to love our wives “EVEN as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” is because it glorifies Christ the Husband—the Head—of his church—there is no better motive for wives and husbands than this!

So we see Christ as our Head means he is Lord and Savior of his church.

III. LASTLY, LET’S SEE THE POWER OUR HEAD WORKS TOWARD HIS CHURCH AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

The Fullness of Him

First, notice, v23 says the church, is “his body, the fullness of him.” Every elect child was chosen of God to make up the fullness of Christ body, the fullness of him.

Ephesians 5:30: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones...32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Yet, we were dead in sins and some are still dead in sins. So since each child in particular is the fullness of him, each one must be quickened (created) and called to faith in Christ so that we be united to his body so that Christ’s body might be full.

Get hold of that—it is great assurance for us who believe! Each redeemed child shall be quickened and kept because if just one is lost, Christ's body will not be complete—his body is the fullness of him.

He Fills All in All

Also, notice verse 23 says it is Christ that "fillesh all in all." Be sure to get this—this point is extremely important—part of Christ's Mediatorial work is the work he is doing now that he has risen into his exaltation glory.

Now, he has finished the work the Father gave him to do on this earth.

- **He is our Wisdom:** "by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many for he shall bear their iniquities." (Is 53: 11) He finished that work!
- **He is our Righteousness:** "he hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor 5: 21) He finished the first part of that work on this earth.
- **He is our Sanctification**—"By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." (Heb 10: 14) He finished that work.
- **He is our Redemption**—" by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, he hath obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb 9: 12) He finished that work.

But it is also our Head's exaltation glory, promised and given him of the Father, to minister to his church the grace and spiritual gifts which he has procured for us by his death, burial and resurrection. [Not at the exclusion of the Father and the Spirit—but together with each person in the trinity.] This is why God the Father "hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church." It is our Lord and Savior's resurrection glory to fill all in all.

So what all does the Lord Jesus Christ fill?—he "fillesh all in all."

- He fulfills all the scriptures which speak of Christ's resurrection work in this gospel age.
- He fills all his pulpits sending his preachers
- He fills all his saints with life and faith.
- And by calling each child into his body, he fills his body with all fullness.

First, he fulfills all the scriptures which speak of Christ's resurrection work in this gospel age, one of which is to fill his pulpits with his preachers. For instance:

Jeremiah 3: 15: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Do we dare deny Christ's power to fulfill his word, his scriptures? It is Christ's glory to fill all in all and scripture says he does.

Ephesians 4: 8: Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men...(10: He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Paul said, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and our faith vain; ye are yet in your sins; then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (1 Cor. 15:14-18.) Our preaching would be vain, not only because it would mean we have no Savior in glory, but also because we would have no Sovereign Prophet to make the work effectual in the hearts of those to whom we preach.

But it is the Power of our Lord and Savior to give his preachers the message, to keep us, and to fill his lost sheep with life. He, himself, based our confidence on his power.

Matthew 28: 18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

So we see he fills his pulpits.

Also, Christ fills all his saints—as Paul puts it, in

Philippians 1: 11:...being filled with fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

He fills us with the Holy Spirit by whom we are regenerated and brought to newness of life. He fills us with faith, repentance, love, joy, perseverance, etc. In the Old Testament scriptures he himself said that he would do this.

Zechariah 12: 10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn...13: 1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

On the day of Pentecost, when 3000 were quickened and converted, Peter declared it was done because it is written by Joel and also by David. Then Peter said of David,

Acts 2: 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would RAISE UP CHRIST to sit on his throne; 31: He SEEING THIS before spake of the RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32: This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God EXALTED, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, HE HATH shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Understand also: Christ did this work in the Old Testament age. But the reason we see so many quickened and converted from the start of this gospel age, when before there were fewer, is because now Christ is raised and exalted to this great glory.

Application: Do you see his power to us? Because Jesus is Lord and Savior with all power it is certain that each lost sheep shall be regenerated and converted effectually by his mighty power.

John 5: 21: For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

He quickens “whom he will.” Who does Christ will to quicken? He said in

John 17: 24: Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovest me from the foundation of the world....26: And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

All the elect of God therefore shall be quickened because it is Christ's will. His will can never be frustrated because the Father has given him all power to be Head over all things to the church, that he might fill all in all. If one is lost he fails in his exaltation work. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he hath set judgment in the earth, and the isles shall wait for his law." (Is 42: 4)

He Shall Lose None of His Members

So how long will our Head—our Lord and Savior—keep working this mighty power? Scripture answers that in Ephesians 4. After Paul declared that Christ sends forth his preachers, he also declares it is for this reason AND til this certain thing happens:

Ephesians 4: 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Illustration: Remember his church is "his body, the fullness of him". Picture a head. Then add an arm, then a hand, then fingers, then legs, feet, so on. As each member is added the body becomes closer to being a full body. When all the members are added the body connected to the head make up a perfect man.

So Christ shall continue sending his preachers till every last child—member—is added to his body. When the last member is joined Christ's body will be—"a perfect man, the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Application: Brethren, do you see how that God worked exceeding great power to usward who believe when he made Jesus both Lord and Christ and gave him all this power and glory over all things? The good news in this for us is that it means not anything nor anyone can stop Christ from bringing his lost child under the sound of the gospel, nor can any prevent Christ from quickening and converting his child through the Holy Spirit by the gospel, nor from keeping us until we awake in his likeness.

"The pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hands." (Is 53: 10)

I pray he will reveal it more fully to each one of us. Our Lord and Savior really has all power over all things. He is the Head over his church in all things. He is in our midst and in each of his children and he is able to rule and govern our brethren through his gospel—and his whole church—like he did when he walked this earth.

We need to understand this more because the majority in our day are doing what the scripture said they would do, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:" (2 Tim 3: 5) When he brings men to behold Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God, he becomes Lord, as well as Savior, and it stops the nonsense that goes on in churches today, first and foremost with preachers trying to lord over God's heritage. Instead, his preachers preach his Power as fully and unapologetically as Christ our Head will enable us.

When Paul encouraged the brethren at Philippi to humble themselves and to love and esteem their brethren better than themselves, he spoke of Christ's humility, then of this great exaltation glory. Then he said,

Philippians 2: 12: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation [daily affairs] with fear and trembling. 13: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14: Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke,

in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16: Holding forth the word of life;

So when we have an erring brother, instead of thinking ourselves something when we are not: we take him to our sovereign Head in prayer, we encourage him to continue hearing Christ word preached in the gospel and we wait on our Head to work the needed correction in our brother. And if he goes on in obstinacy and leaves us—we bow to our Sovereign Lord and Savior. We do so because he has power to subdue all things to himself.

Philippians 3:15: Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you...21:...according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Amen!