



TITLE:

Ephesians 1:19-23 - The Working of God's Mighty Power

INTRODUCTION:

- Ephesians 1:19-23 is part of the second section of the doctrinal content. This section contains Paul's prayer for the Ephesians.
- Part of the goals of His prayer is for the Ephesians to know the exceeding greatness of God's power to them.
- This power is according to the working of His mighty power.

THE WORKING OF HIS MIGHTY POWER

- Paul described the basis of God's power to usward (1:19).
- This power is according to the working of His mighty power.
 - o This shows the sovereignty of our Omnipotent (all-powerful) God.
 - o The noun "working" (ἐνέργειαν - energeian) means effectual working or operation. This Greek word is unique to Paul.
 - Paul testifies that he was made minister according to the effectual working of His power (Eph. 3:7).
 - God will change our vile body unto His glorious body according to God's working (Php. 3:21).
 - Paul labors and strives according to God's working (Col. 1:29).
 - God saved and quickened us together with Christ according to God's working. This is the content of 2:1-10.
 - o The word "power" (κράτους - kratous) means power, strength, or dominion.
 - God has working or operation of His mighty power or dominion.
 - o It only means that God has been working or operating. From our salvation, our service to Him, and our future resurrection. All of them are according to His working of His mighty power.
 - o Illustration: Electricity - powerful energy that operates in our lives.
 - o Ultimately, God wrought or operated the working of His mighty power in Christ when He:
 - raised Him from the dead - resurrection
 - set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places - session/exaltation
 - hath put all things under His feet - subjugation
 - gave Him to be the Head over all things - installation
- In this context, Paul was praying for the Ephesians to know the exceeding greatness of this power.

WHEN GOD RAISED JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD

- God wrought or operated the working of His mighty power when He raised Jesus Christ from the dead (1:20).
- This is the fulfillment of Psalms 16:9-11.
 - o "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that He is the Son of God.
 - o Romans 1:4 "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"
- This is the best-documented event in ancient history.
 - o The Bible says there are "many infallible proofs" of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:3).
 - o Men believe that our universe is 13.7 billion years old, life on Earth began when lightning, ultraviolet radiation, and asteroid impacts created hydrogen cyanide, and humans are the product of evolutionary processes that go back more than 3.5 billion years.
 - o What's their proof? Fossils that they don't know what they are. For example, in 2015, scientists discovered a fossil of a snake-like body that had four tiny legs, marking the first discovery of the missing link between snakes and lizards. Then, in 2021, they re-examined the fossil and found out that it was not a snake but just a lizard.
 - o These people are saying that we, who hold the Bible, have blind faith. No, they are the one who has blind faith.
 - o Bible-believing Christianity is not BLIND RELIGIOUS FAITH!
- The Apostles and the early churches were the witnesses of this event.

- Then, they documented it.
- The written proof of this event has been perfectly preserved up to our time.
- Now, our duty as His disciples is to be witnesses of the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
- Paul stated that the Christian faith is dependent on the resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:14-17).

WHEN GOD SET JESUS CHRIST AT HIS OWN RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES

- God wrought or operated the working of His mighty power when He set the resurrected Son of God at His own right hand (1:20-21).
- The Old Testament not only predicted the humiliation of the Messiah but also His exaltation.
 - Psalm 110:1 “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”
- Jesus Christ is far above:
 - All principality (ἀρχῆς - archēs) which means beginning or first.
 - All power (ἐξουσίας - exousias) which means power, authority, right, or jurisdiction.
 - All might (δυνάμειος - dynamēōs) which means power, mighty work, strength, or miracle.
 - All dominion (κυριότητος - kyriotētos) which means dominion, or government.
 - Every name that is named, not only in this world (present age) but also in that which is to come (future age).
 - This is not an exclusive list since Paul alluded to other orders such as “thrones” in Col. 1:16 and “rulers” in Eph. 6:12.
- Christ is exalted far above all the heavenly and earthly creation, above angelic real and satanic real, above all sorts of authorities and all mighty works, and all governments in this world.

WHEN GOD PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET AND GAVE HIM TO BE THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS

- God wrought or operated the working of His mighty power when He hath put all things under Jesus Christ’s feet (1:22).
- The same feet that were nailed to the cross in His humiliation and suffering are over all things.
 - This is the strongest language for authority which means all are subject to Jesus Christ.
- God wrought or operated the working of His mighty power when He gave Jesus Christ to be the Head over all things (1:22).
- Jesus Christ is:
 - The Head of all creation (Eph. 1:22)
 - The Head of the angelic realm (Col. 2:10)
 - The Head of every man (1 Cor. 11:3)
 - The Head of the church (Col. 1:18)
- All are under Christ’s headship whether men acknowledge it or not. The day would come when the whole world would see Christ’s headship over all things.
- Compare Heb. 2:8.
 - All things are positionally under Christ, but not practically, yet.
- Christ’s Headship over all things is “to the church”.
 - The noun “church” is in Dative case which means it is the indirect object of the verb “gave.” It means that Christ’s Headship over all things was “for the benefit of” the church.
 - The word “church” (ἐκκλησία - ekklēsia) means assembly or congregation. This refers to the saved and baptized disciples gathering together at Ephesus.
 - The church is the fulness of Christ that filleth all in all. The church is complete with Christ who makes complete all in all.
 - The church is filled with the presence, power, agency, and riches of Christ. The church is the agency of God in our time to perform His plan.
 - Compare Col. 2:10.
 - The church is complete with everything we need to do the work that God commanded us to do.
 - Compare Matt. 28:18-20.
 - All power is given unto Christ, therefore do the Great Commission.
 - Lo, Christ, is with you always, even unto the end of the ages.

CHALLENGE:

- We must grow in the knowledge of the exceeding greatness of God’s power to us.