

God placed All Things under His Feet!

Ephesians 1:15-23 (vv. 19-23)

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I. Biblical context

Paul is praying for the believers. He is concerned about the believers who do not feel the power of God in their lives. Now Paul knows he cannot change them, only God can. That is why he's praying. Paul's prayer does more than just record the content of his prayer for his audience to read, it serves to establish the vision for their identity and reassert the nature of the faith-life into which they have been called.

Why is Paul doing this? Why does he say these things in particular the way he does in Ephesians? It is likely that the original audience may have been broader than the community in Ephesus; nevertheless, one clear theme is reconciliation in Christ, reconciliation to God and one another, reconciliation that crosses established lines Greco-Roman culture and human traditions had drawn, that kept certain people apart. Reminding people of our rootedness in God's reconciliation action in Christ and of its very real consequences for how we live in relation to one another is something we can never wear out.

II. The Lesson: God placed All Things under HIS Feet!

1. vv. 15 & 16. Thanksgiving and prayer

Paul expresses his ongoing remembrance and prayer for his audience. He especially draws attention to their faith and love. This remembrance and prayer is on the basis of what he has heard. We should always be clear as we use the word faith, that it should not be reduced to just mental assent to some creed, but as active trust in what God has done and will do., and life lived in

participation, response to, and reflection of what God has done. This is closely linked with love for all the saints. Again Paul is thanking them, not for warm feelings toward others, but love in action. This faith and love will be fleshed out later in the letter in terms of pursuit of unity, breaking through those lines that inhibit reconciliation and unity in the world. The community of Christ should never have within it evidence of the disunity that plagues the surrounding world. Where this is the case, how can the transformation of life of love, rooted in active faith be heard?

2. vv. 17- 19. The Spirit of Wisdom, Revelation and Power

Here Paul highlights the purpose of his prayer. He remembers the community in Christ and prays constantly in order that God might give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Three things are highlighted in verses 17, 18 and 19.

A. Verse 17. The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation.

Paul's emphasis here lies on his hope that God will give the church "**the spirit of wisdom and revelation** so that [they will] know [Christ] better." The *more* God's people **know** Jesus Christ *better experientially* as their Redeemer, Restorer, Healer, Provider, Protector, etc. *the more* they will realize His Glorious and Resurrecting Power! **Such knowledge and spiritual experience fuel the faith, empower the spirit and encourage the heart of the Believers!** It is God's Will and Plan to **reveal** the fullness of Christ in His church/disciples! The **more** we **know** of Christ *through* God's Word, **the more** we exercise our faith and obedience in both our personal and church lives! The *more* we get to **know** Christ *through* God's Word, the *more* "**wisdom and revelation**" we receive! Understand that God in His Infinite "wisdom" has revealed to us who believe the "**full revelation of His Will**" in Jesus Christ.

B. Verse 18. The Enlightenment of the “Eyes and Heart”

In verse 18, the prayer focus shifts to *spiritual illumination* which allows the believers to **know and understand** the reason why God **called** us in Christ! Most of us can testify that we were **spiritually blind** before Christ came into our lives. We were deep into worldly things. We had no place for God and had nothing to do with church. But when God delivered us through Christ and His Power began to operate in us, “**the eyes of our hearts**” were “**enlightened.**” As time went on, God’s Word and the Holy Spirit opened “**the eyes of our hearts**” and we began to receive the “**wisdom and revelation**” of Christ! Our faith became stronger and we understood *the purpose* for which God “**called**” you and I in Christ! Since “**the eyes of our hearts**” are *opened*, we also understand “**the glorious inheritance**” God promised “**the saints**” who remain faithful in Christ Jesus! Since we are the *recipients* of God’s “**wisdom and revelation**” in Christ, *we are no longer spiritually blind!*

C. Verse 19. The Awesome Power of God Manifested in Christ!

In his spirit filled and glorious prayer, Apostle Paul has included the *availability* of God’s “**incomparably great power**” in Christ for those “**who believe.**” This is the most glorious “**revelation**” for the people of God! The Word of God is assuring us that the Awesome Power of God which was fully disclosed in Christ Jesus is available to those “who believe” in Him! The same “**incomparably great power**” that raised Jesus from the dead is still available to those “**who believe**” in Him! The Awesome Power of God Manifested in Christ is *still available* to **redeem, restore** and **empower** those “**who believe**” in Him! In addition, the “revelation” is also about the assurance of our heavenly “inheritance” by being resurrected from the dead when Jesus Christ comes back to receive us! O, how marvelous is the “**wisdom and revelation**” manifested in Christ for those “**who believe!**”

In these turbulent times, we need reminders of these marvelous things! We need constant reminders of God's transforming Power which has no limits! Thank God for His Word which reminds, encourages and inspires us to keep on trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank God for the Blood of Christ which made Salvation possible for all of those "**who believe.**" We thank God for demonstrating His "incomparably great power" in His Son for those "who believe" in Him!

3. vv. 20-23. God Placed All Things under His Feet!

God used His great power to raise Jesus from the grave. As a conclusion to the prayer, Paul focus on the wondrous glorious Power of God that has been fully manifested in Christ. At the Appointed Time, God's exaltation His Son above all things, placing all things under the feet of Christ, and appointing Christ as the head of the church, which is His body. Christ is the head, as the Resurrected, Ascended and Reigning King of the universe seated at the Right Hand of His Father in heaven. The same God who resurrected His Son from the dead is the same God who "appointed Him to be head over everything for the church." That same Divine Power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same Power which will resurrect the believers from the dead at the Second Coming of Christ!

III. CONCLUSION

We are forever grateful for all the "**spiritual blessings**" wrapped up in Jesus Christ! We pray for "**wisdom and revelation**" so we may know God better and understand the eternal significance of "**the call**" each of us have received! May God continue to grant us "**the spirit of wisdom and revelation**" so that we keep on praising, worshipping and serving God in "spirit and truth.". AMEN!