

011 - Far Above All - Ephesians 1:20b-23 - 2014-08-03

Ephesians 1:20b-23 [which He worked in Christ when] He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His 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 age but also in that which is to come. (22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Call to Worship: Psalm 57:8-11

Scripture Reading: Daniel 7:9-14

Sermon: "Far Above All" Ephesians 1:20b-23

Benediction: Philippians 2:9-11

## INTRODUCTION

May all of our preferences, all of our accomplishments, all of our abilities, all of our giftedness, and all of everything else about us be set out of our sight, that we turn our eyes to the Lord above and say with the apostle, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly in Christ!"

Let us who believe take no credit for that faith, as if it belonged to us, or we drummed it up from inside ourselves, for just as God works all things by the counsel of His own will, so when we first believed, that was the work of the Spirit of Christ in us, not our own work. We were predestined to that faith by God, not by our own decision. We were predestined to have faith in Christ by the will of God, not by our own will. So, then, let us thank the Lord God for every good thing we have, even our faith in Christ and repentance from sin, as all gifts from Him.

Let us also pray that we may know God more---that He will give us the Spirit of revelation and wisdom in the knowledge of Him, so that we may know

- the hope we have because of His calling

- the riches we have because of the inheritance He is giving us

- the power, the exceeding greatness of the working of His power by which He has given us a new birth and made us new creatures, with our faith in Christ Jesus

As the apostle speaks of that great power, He mentions that the power with which the Lord God has given us a regeneration inside is the same power by which He raised the Lord Jesus from the dead. This is such a glorious truth that the apostles digresses into a wonderful expression of that power. Here we take up today, as the bible teaches us of what God the Father, by His great power, has done in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## TEXT

Read the text: Ephesians 1:20-23

## BODY

### I. God the Father, by His great power, raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead

#### A. See how firmly this is testified

##### 1. by OT prophecy

Psalm 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

##### 2. by the prophecy of the Lord Jesus Himself

Matthew 20:17-19 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, (18) "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, (19) and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

##### 3. by the announcement of angels

Matthew 28:5-7a But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. (6) He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. (7) And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead . . ."

##### 4. by the eyes of many witnesses

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, (5) and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. (6) After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. (7) After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. (8) Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

##### 5. by inspired writing, so we may know, also, and believe

John 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

#### B. Understand what the power of God in the resurrection of Christ is

##### 1. repair of the damage to the physical body, yes

a. we can make some repairs

b. we already can make sufficient repairs to cure many mortal wounds

##### 2. re-uniting of soul and body

a. man consists of these two parts

i. distinct

ii. not separate

b. life consists of their union

c. death consists of their separation

i. the righteous to paradise with God

ii. the unrighteous to the fire of hell

- d. resurrection consists of their re-uniting
- e. this is the power of God, which no mere creature has
- C. APPLICATION: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved!
  - 1. his death for your sins and his burial, and His resurrection
  - 2. gain for yourself the departure to paradise instead of to hell
  - 3. gain for yourself the resurrection unto eternal life rather than unto eternal death

So, God the Father, by His great power, raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead; and

II. God the Father, by His great power, seated the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand in the heavenly, far above [everything]

- A. all principality, power, might, dominion
  - 1. anyone with any power
  - 2. any ruler of any kind
    - a. angel
    - b. demon
    - c. man
- B. every name that is named
  - 1. Gabriel
  - 2. Lucifer
  - 3. Caesar
- C. and these not only in this age [KJV: world] but also in that which is to come
- D. APPLICATION
  - 1. Let us leave off all ideas of making Jesus Lord
  - 2. Let us leave off all ideas of the Lord Jesus not being able to do something unless we allow Him to
- D. APPLICATION: Could we be content with such a simple scheme of eschatology?
  - 1. "this age"
  - 2. "the age to come"
  - 3. between the two, the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, with the accompanying
    - a. resurrection and
    - b. judgment

So, God the Father, by His great power, raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead;  
 God the Father, by His great power, seated the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand in the heavenly, far above [everything], and

III. God the Father, by His great power, put all things under the Lord Jesus' feet

- A. according to the scriptures
  - Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

B. more specifically, the Father is putting all things under the Lord Jesus' feet (1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

1. already by right
2. more and more as He continues His conquests
3. at the end, this will be completely realized
  - a. the last of the elect will believe - see 2 Peter 3:1-10
    - i. it is a long wait
    - ii. during the long wait, the scoffers scoff at us
    - iii. during the long wait, the Lord Jesus is subduing all His enemies
    - iv. He is not willing that even one of His elect should perish
    - v. when that last one believes, the the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night
  - b. death will be conquered in the resurrection of the dead
  - c. then all Christ's enemies will be under His feet, no longer merely by right, but in actuality

So, God the Father, by His great power, raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead;  
God the Father, by His great power, seated the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand in the heavenly, far above [everything];  
God the Father, by His great power, put all things under the Lord Jesus' feet; and

IV. God the Father, by His great power, gave the Lord Jesus to be head over all things to the church

- A. nature of the relationship: the church is His body
- B. benefits to the body: He fills the church
  1. with direction
  2. with nutrition
- C. this is a concept that will be raised again and again in Ephesians
- D. APPLICATION: consider how well directed and how well fed
- E. APPLICATION: consider how ridiculous to refuse that direction or that food

## CONCLUSION

So, God the Father, by His great power, raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead;  
God the Father, by His great power, seated the Lord Jesus Christ at His right hand in the heavenly, far above [everything];  
God the Father, by His great power, put all things under the Lord Jesus' feet;  
God the Father, by His great power, gave the Lord Jesus to be head over all things to the church;  
and

Barnes:

It is not easy to distinguish between the exact meaning of the words which the apostle here uses. The general idea is, that Christ is elevated above all ranks of creatures, however exalted, and by whatever name they may be known.

Hodge:

the obvious meaning of the passage is that Christ is exalted above all created beings.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (23) But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. (24) Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. (25) For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. (26) The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (27) For "HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. (28) Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Daniel 7:9-14 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; (10) A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. (11) "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. (12) As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. (13) "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. (14) Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Acts 7:55-56 But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, (56) and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

<http://www.archive.org/stream/worksofthomasgoo01good#page/443/mode/1up>