

As a reminder, last we focused on 3 principles Paul prayed:

The hope of His calling
The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints
The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe

This morning let's look at how Paul unpacks the three principles he prayed over the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:19b -23 *These (The three principles) are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Let's focus on these verses by exploring these main principles:

- 1) Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, connected how our Hope of His calling, the riches of how He treasures us, and His overwhelming power towards us is a direct result of His might (not our accomplishments), which was manifested in a powerful way by the resurrection of Jesus.
- 2) As a result of the resurrection, God highlights the Supremacy of Jesus.
- 3) This Supremacy of Jesus is walked out through His Body, the Church.

Let's go through them one by one:

- 1) Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, connected how our hope of His calling, the riches of how He treasures us, and His overwhelming power towards us is a direct result of His might (not our accomplishments), which was manifested in a powerful way by the resurrection of Jesus.

Sometimes I think we tend to forget the depth of impact the resurrection has not only on this planet but also on us individually and us corporately as the church.

According to what Paul shared with the Corinthians, the resurrection is the pivotal point of everything.

1 Corinthians 15:13-19 *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. 15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in*

fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Paul went so far as to mention the resurrection as the practical anchor of his relationship with Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-11 *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection** and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

The power of His resurrection fuels our intimacy with Him and gives us the power to live obediently in Him.

Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

Colossians 3:1-3 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

It's good to remind ourselves of the practical power of the resurrection in our daily lives.

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

What are some practical ways you can grow in this area that Paul spoke about: “*That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection*”?

Let's look at the next principle:

2) As a result of the resurrection, God highlights the Supremacy of Jesus.

Our culture tends to treat Jesus as one of the many options in life. They can either dismiss Him as a fraud or consider Him just one of the many “nice” historical figures trying to help humanity, ie. Gandhi. Even “Christians” can reduce Jesus and His teachings as “nice” platitudes but not True Truth.

We need to fully embrace His Supremacy in order to be a growing and maturing Jesus Follower.

Let's look at what the Bible says about His Supremacy:

Colossians 1:16,17 *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Hebrews 1:1-3 *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

Colossians 2:6-10 *Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ⁹For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;*

Hale Pule Discussion Question:

How can you more align your life to reflect the Supremacy of Jesus over you?

Let's look at the last principle:

3) This Supremacy of Jesus is walked out through His Body, the Church.

As our culture and some “Christians” misunderstand the Supremacy of Jesus, they also misunderstand the true nature of the Church. The church is also seen as a peripheral part of things and an option to the tapestry of our life.

We will talk more in depth about the Church later in Ephesians, but it's important for us to recognize how the Father integrates the Supremacy of Jesus with the establishment of His Church.

Jesus fills everything in every way and the Church is the fulness of Him.

Sometimes people forget that Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is His Body.

Many want a decapitated relationship with Jesus – either Jesus without the church: “Lone Ranger Christianity” or the church without Jesus: social justice activism that is unrestrained by biblical principles.

To be a growing and maturing Jesus Follower, we need the Head and the Body as one.

We’ll explore some deeper principles about the Church later in Ephesians.

Of course, the entire narrative of the Bible is a tapestry of truth concerning any topic we talk about. Listed below are just a few of the Scriptures that interweave with what we are talking about this morning, but I didn’t include them into my message to help keep the time manageable ☺

Extra verses about the Power of the resurrection of Jesus:

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies..."*

1 Corinthians 6:14 *And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power*

Romans 6:4-7 *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.*

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Extra verses about the Supremacy of Jesus:

Psalms 93:1,2 *The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. 2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.*

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

John 10:24-30 *The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."*

Extra verses about the Church and Jesus:

Ephesians 4:11-16 *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, [] we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Acts 20:28 *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

1 Timothy 3:15 *but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*