

A Prayer to know Him and the Power of His Resurrection.

Աղօթք ճանչնալու Ձայն եւ Անոր Յարութեան Չօրութիւնը
Ephesians 1:15-23

Our theme:

In, By, and With His Grace.

Անոր Շնորհքին Մէջ, Անոր Շնորհքով

IN His Grace—We can be confident. We are a MASTERPIECE. That is how God sees us.

BY His Grace—We have been SAVED. We can't earn it.

WITH His Grace—We strive to LIVE, LOVE, and LEARN to be MORE LIKE JESUS.

Paul starts with a great benediction, a doxology (3-14)

Ken Boa summarizes this passage like this:¹

The Father 1:4-6

Chose us

Adopted us

Accepted us

The Son 1:7-12

Redeemed us

Forgave us

Revealed God's will to us

Gave us an inheritance

The Holy Spirit 1:13-14

Sealed us

Gave a guarantee/Down payment

And Paul continues with a great intercession (15-23). It is a prayer

“First, he blesses God for having blessed us in Christ; then he prays that God will open our eyes to grasp the fullness of this blessing.”²

I need new spiritual vision. I need eyes to see fullness of God's blessings.

-When I was working on my sermon on September 20, Artsakh was fallen to

Azerbaijan. 120,000 Armenians are refugees. I felt very weak and powerless. I felt

lonely and abandoned from my Lord Jesus. Then I read this passage again and again

and this verse (19) came to my attention:

“the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe” ESV

“the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe” NASB

“his incomparably great power for us who believe” NIV

-Do I experience the immeasurable greatness of His POWER?

-Do you experience this kind of power from God?

-Let us go to the passage:

-Faith and Love

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints (15)

Paul has heard about the believers' **faith** towards God and the believers' **love** towards each other. The first lesson, our faith is manifested in the church, in the community, expressing love to each other.

-Prayer of thanksgiving

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (16)

Nice to have a grateful heart towards the people you are ministering to.

-What are the topics of his prayer?

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead (17-20)

“Lord, give me the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.”

“Lord, Give me wisdom and knowledge to know YOU”

-Knowing God for Paul is not just cognitive exercise.

Illustration: I could know about bacon by looking at bacon and examining it and describing it. I could know bacon by having a wonderful breakfast.

-Paul is interested to know God and experience God's power in our lives.

One of verses I memorized as young believer was this:

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection (Phil 3:7)

Knowing God, having an intimate relationship with him, and experiencing the resurrected Christ in our daily life.

- Eyes that can see but cannot see!

having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, (18)

He is praying for eyes of our hearts to be enlightened.

I feel sometimes we don't feel the power of Christ's resurrection. We don't see the **magnitude of God's power in our lives.**

Why?

a. Satan likes to put the church in lukewarm ~~funny~~ mood. We forget the power of God's resurrection how He saved us from eternal death; we take for granted that by the grace of Jesus we are saved.

b. We are not aware of the blinding power of sin. We do not see the urgency of dealing with our sin. We think it can wait...

Illustration: -When I had surgery, I needed medicine to help me recover. You cannot take that medicine as you wanted. There was a schedule to follow. I waited eagerly for the hour to take it. I wanted the power of the medicine to work in me.

Sin is destructive. We cannot fold it and put it away. We need daily the power of risen Lord to help us tackle our sin.

Therefore, Paul knows he cannot change this, only God can do this.

-Open our eyes of our heart and Paul prays for three things:

Let me read Paul's prayer :

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..(18-19)

I explained in the beginning, Paul wants the church to know God. To know God, is to have a serious, intimate relationship with Him.

To know what? (three things)

1. What is the hope to which he has called you
2. What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
3. What is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe

1. What is the hope to which he has called you

The question now is what did God call us for?

His call was not random or without purpose. He called us to something and for something...

For God has called us **'to belong to Jesus Christ'** and **'into fellowship with Jesus Christ.'**(Rom 1:6) he has called us **'to be his holy people'** since he who has called us is holy himself and says to us **'Be holy because I am holy.'**(Rom 1:7)³

2. What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints?

Last week I mentioned how Holy Spirit paid the down payment of this. Peter describes saying: **“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...kept in heaven for you”** (1 Pet 1:4).

We are God’s children adopted by God. One day by His Grace the inheritance will be ours. We will be in perfect fellowship with God. When Christ appears, we will be like Him, not only in body, but in character as well...⁴ (I look forward for that)

3. What is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe

Immeasurable greatness of his power

surpassing greatness of His power

incomparably great power

what kind of “atomic bomb” God is giving towards the believers?

²⁰ that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things 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. (Eph 1:20-23 ESV)

Four things

1. The power of God toward us: **“that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead.”**(20a)

-How comforting is this thought.

-God raised Jesus from the dead.

-Death is defeated. Therefore, sin is defeated. The power of death is gone.

-Do you know how comforting and liberating this is.

Oh death where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gave us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:54-57)

This power of God, opened my eyes to see....this much bigger than atomic bomb
I pray it opens your eyes to see the power of God...

2. The power of God toward us when: **“God seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.”** (20b)

To sit at the right hand of God is authority. God gave Jesus authority. And with the resurrection of Jesus **we** will be seated with Him in heavenly places...

3. The power of God toward us when God exalted Christ: “**far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come**” (verse 21).

-Jesus has authority over every power and dominion. Satan is defeated. All demonic powers are under Him. Jesus name is above ALL NAMES

ABOVE -All evil powers, including nations who think they can win, evil, ugly, who enjoy starving children;

ABOVE ALL powers of today and tomorrow, of the ages to come, they are under his authority.

4. The power of God toward us when God “**put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all**” (verse 22, 23).

-Jesus is the head. Again, I see his authority over history. Over COVID, over earthquakes, over genocides, over business, over Dow Jones, over all this political authorities... all.

All these so call mighty nations and powers are under Jesus feet.

And also Jesus is the head of the church.

Application

Satan is not happy that I am preaching this sermon to you

Demonic powers are real. In Eph 6 Paul will shield us with the armor of God.

Artsakh was given to Azerbaijan. Our churches, our schools, our heritage, thousands years of history is given to Azerbaijan.

The world watches and says nothing. Because the world lost its morality and conscience to say what is right and wrong.

But we have **Immeasurable greatness of his power**

This is God’s promise and I trust my God.

Going back to Artsakh, it does not seems God’s power is there.

I disagree.

Sin is defeated on Good Friday on the cross, yet sin remains; we should fight to be IN JESUS

Satan is defeated on Good Friday on the cross, yet Satan remains; we should fight and remain in JESUS

Watch out church for your walk with the Lord. Open your eyes of your heart and see what Go is doing. I trust our Lord; HE IS GOD of HISTORY; God is with us, even if they take our churches from us, they will not take our faith from us.

Watch out oh my people not to be warm. That is exactly what Satan wants from us. We are the children of God. God adopted us, we are His Children. We won the war over sin and Satan in the NAME of JESUS.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Romans 8

1. Ken Boa, *Bible studies series on Ephesians*. <https://kenboa.org/biblical/ephesians-1-the-blessing-of-the-father/>
2. John R.W. Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today, The Message of Ephesians*, P 32
3. *ibid* p35
4. *ibid* p36, 37

Let me finish with this Plasm 110:5-7 ESV

The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

⁶ He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

⁷ He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.