



Ephesians 1:19-2:6

His Power

"...and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

Ephesians 1:19a

The Church in Ephesus

As we have already noted in our notes on His Inheritance, we know more about the church in Ephesus than any other church in the New Testament. From its glorious beginning in Acts 19 to the time when its spiritual vitality began to wain in Revelation 2:1-6, we have a life-span of insight into this body of believers.

1. Acts 19:1-12 accounts for God's moving in Ephesus and a turning point for the entire province of Asia. The language used in this account to describe what God was doing through Paul and the Ephesian church points to supernatural origins. The phrase we translate "extraordinary miracles" describe healings and deliverances which had never been seen before in the city. They were extra-ordinary, not to be duplicated by mortal men.

2. Acts 19:13-22 - Luke describes for us the consequence of such displays of the power of God. As is the case in any movement of God, counterfeit ministry began to surface in Ephesus. Do to its origin in the flesh, these attempts to replicate what God was doing through His people failed publicly. As a result, fear and reverence for the Holy Spirit surfaced in the city.

3. Acts 19:23-41 - What began as a revival for the city of Ephesus spread throughout the entire region. This movement was not, surprisingly, testified to by the church,

but by even those who apposed the movement of God. Luke records for us in verses 23-27,

- *“About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: “Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”*

4. The movement of God through the church in Ephesus sparked a revival that spread throughout the entire region of Asia Minor. Consequently, all churches that surfaced in this region during this period of history benefitted from the church in Ephesus.

5. Acts 20:16-38, 1 & 2 Timothy and Revelation 2:1-6 - Other portions of the New Testament give us further insights to the ministry, impact, and health of the Ephesian church. The above portions of Scripture are recommended for further study of this body of believers.

Paul's emphasis on Identity

Paul covers several elements of the Christian life in his letter to the Ephesian Church, but they all have their foundation in our identity "in Christ." We refer to this foundation as our identity in Christ, for without knowing who we are in Christ, we cannot know our value as Children of God in this physical world.

Our identity "in Christ" is so important for Paul, that he uses language like "in Him," "in Christ," and "through Jesus Christ" 12 times in the first 14 verses of his letter. For Paul, the most important aspect for every Christian is to know who that have become when they became "saved." We are new, we are cleansed, and we have all the benefits and privileges that Jesus Himself has in His Father's Kingdom.

The Heavenly Realms

Another significant phrase Paul uses in this letter is *The Heavenly Realms* - 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; and 6:12. Our identity as children of God comes from us being seated with Christ in the Heavenly Realms. (Ephesians 2:6)

Our authority, gifting, and value is not found in our physical bodies (fleshly talents and abilities), but in our being seated in Christ in the Heavenly Realms. To be seated "in Christ" is Paul's way of saying that where Jesus sits in authority and power over EVERYTHING God has created, because of His triumphal death and resurrection, those of us who have received salvation through belief in Him are

now called children of God and have the same power and authority as He does. Jesus won the war for us and now we have victory in Him. We no longer have to be oppressed and persecuted by demonic spiritual beings. Jesus has given His victory to His brothers and sisters who are seated with Him in The Heavenly Realms.

For more on The Heavenly Realms, please visit our web site, and under Resources, click [The Heavenly Realms](#).

Our Power - Ephesians 1:19-2:6

1. Ephesians 1:3-14 - Paul opens his letter with our chosen status as children of God seated in Christ. He expounds on all that comes with being brought into Christ - blessed, chosen, and predestined. I would encourage you to investigate further these verses.

2. Ephesians 1:18 - 2:6 - Paul continues expounding on our identity in Christ by highlighting two specific areas - Inheritance and Power. This study will focus on the first of these - *Inheritance*.

3. Ephesians 1:18 - Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus that the "...eyes of your heart may be enlightened."

- Paul knows, as we do, that the human heart does not have eyes. His language here has spiritual meaning. Consistent with the spiritual implications of being seated in *heavenly* places, Paul speaks here of spiritual sight. Note his reference to "enlightened" in the verse.

- φωτίζω - Translated “enlightened,” this term refers to one understanding or perceiving something. In this context, it refers to spiritual perception, or spiritual sight.
- Paul prays for the children of God in Ephesus to have spiritual insight so that they can know *the hope to which they’ve been called*. This *hope* is the inheritance and power we have as believers and saints.

4. Ephesians 1:19-23 - Along with an inheritance, the hope of every child of God is to have **power**.

- As with the inheritance, the power we have comes from Jesus. We receive both His inheritance and His power as children of God.
- This power is not just for us, but inside us. We literally are carriers of His power.
 - “...and his incomparably great power **for** us who believe.” Ephesians 1:19a
 - εἰς - Translated “for” in the phrase “for us who believe,” is translated *into* 573 times in the NT and to 281 times in the NT. This word “for” has an inside aspect to it.
 - Note: There are other terms Paul could have used here, several that can be translated “for,” but he chooses this one to add emphasis. The power is not just *for* us but *in* us. Notice how the Revised Standard Version Bible translates this verse.

- Revised Standard Version - "...the immeasurable greatness of his power **in** us who believe."
- There are many types of "power" in the NT. Paul illustrates this specific kind of power that resides within us. Paul writes, "That power is like..." Paul then describes this kind of power.
- "That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."
(Ephesians 19:b-21)
- There are several descriptions of this power in the above verse. They are as follows:
 - Power = The working of God's mighty strength
 - Power = Raised Jesus from the dead
 - Power = Seated Jesus at His (The Father) right hand.
 - Power = Placed Jesus above every rule, authority, power, dominion, and title in any and every age.
 - Power = All things are under Jesus' feet, who is head of the Church.

- The power that raised Jesus from the grave and which lives in us is unique among any other power that raised other people from the dead (example - Lazarus). The power that raised Jesus from the dead is unique in a few different ways. They are as followed:
 - Power = Jesus' resurrection placed Him beyond death. Jesus came from the grave to never again enter into death. Lazarus rose from the grave, but reentered the grave again.
 - Power = Jesus died cursed for all mankind's sin (past, present, future). When God the Father raised Jesus from the grave, He essentially raised the worst of humanity out of death and placed him at His own right hand. Jesus went into the grave (a death sentence punishment) with all mankind's sin and God the Father raised Him out of that punishment to glory.
 - Power = Consequently, the raising of Jesus from the dead is not just a defeating of physical death, but spiritual death for all mankind.
- The power that raised Jesus from death and brought Him into life is the power which also placed all things under His feet.
 - Power = Placed Jesus above every rule, authority, power, dominion, and title in any and every age.

- Jesus' resurrection to the Father's right hand ABOVE any and every other created thing signifies complete and ultimate authority over all things. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Jesus rightly declared to His disciples in Matthew 28:18, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
- The power that raised Jesus from the grave and which lives in us is the power that placed all things under His feet. It is He is who head over the Church.
 - Power = Jesus is the head of the Church.

5. Ephesians 2:1-6 - The Power that resides **in** us.

- As shown above, we have a Power inside us which accomplished the following:
 - Power = brought Jesus out of condemnation for mankind's sin and seated him at God's right hand. This power is Holiness power. It is transforming power that takes a sinner and transforms them into new creations - spotless saints. Jesus, who took on the sin of the world, not only provided, in His death, forgiveness for sin, but in His resurrection, purification of our nature. (1 John 1:8-9)
 - Power = Restored humanity to its rightful place at God's right hand in sonship. God is Father and mankind (Jesus The Son) is son.

- Power = Placed all things, even the angelic (Hebrews 1:5-6), under Jesus' feet.

- Ephesians 2:1-3

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

- The believers in Ephesus were once of the world, lost in sin, dominated by the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan), and were objects of wrath, with no other use than to face destruction.
- Ephesians 2:4-6

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus..."

- There are a few distinct points in these verses which need to be highlighted.

- God's redemption began even "when we were dead in transgressions" and before we made any decision about Jesus. We are saved by Grace, which is to say, because of God's love for us and not our desire for Him.
- "God raised us up with Christ..." means that what happened to Christ, benefits us. Symbolized in Baptism, we have went into the grave with Jesus and raised from the grave with Jesus. His journey into the grave to out of the grave, from sin to sinless, transfers to us when we believe in Him and are saved.
- In the ascension, Jesus sits at the right hand of God with all authority over Heaven and Earth. This too Jesus shares with us. As saved and sanctified children of God, we sit with Christ in His authority at the right of God. Jesus restored all the intentions of the Father for mankind in his sacrificial death and resurrection, not only for Himself, but for all those who believe in Him.
- Mankind Restored & Redeemed
 - The Power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that lives in us.
 - The Power that raised Jesus from the dead is the power that takes a Fallen man or woman and restores them to what God designed from the

beginning: Jesus. Jesus is what God intended for mankind.

- All the rights and privileges belonging to Jesus, He shares with us, His brothers and sisters.
- Jesus' victory of sin, death, and Satan's forces becomes our victory when we believe in Him for salvation.