

To Him Who Sits On the Throne, Ephesians 1.15-23
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis • Season After Pentecost, Reign of Christ, the King
Blessed Hope Missionary Fellowship • November 23, 2008

*Teachings are proactive for the next Sunday in advance. Unless otherwise noted,
all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).*



Who's The King of the Jungle?

It happened in the jungle one day. A lion with a big ego went around asking the other animals who the king of the jungle was. "Who's the king of the jungle?" the lion roared at a monkey. "Why you are, Mr. Lion," said the monkey with fear in his voice. The lion went on and found a zebra. "Who's the king of the jungle?" he snarled. "There is no doubt about it. You are Mr. Lion," said the zebra. Seeing a turtle crossing his path the lion bellowed, "Who's the king of the jungle?" Scared out of his shell the turtle said, "You are Mr. Lion. You are the king of the jungle." Then the lion came upon an elephant. Once again he roared out the question, "Who's the king of jungle?" The elephant used his trunk to grab the lion by his tail. He spun him around over his head several times, dunked him in a mud hole, and slammed him into a large tree. Dazed and dirty the lion said, "*Just because you didn't know the correct answer was no reason to get upset!*"



THE REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING

The One Who has been given a name above all names

I. Commendation and Supplication, Eph. 1.15-18a

A. Commendation for the faith and love of the Ephesians, Eph. 1.15

Eph. 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints

1. In one glorious sentence, vv. 3-14 Paul lays out carefully and eloquently the matchless depth of the grace of God in Christ Jesus (i.e., every spiritual blessing in Christ, we enjoy God's election, predestination, adoption as children, recipients of grace, redemption, forgiveness of sins, wisdom, understanding, knowledge of the mystery of God's will, the sealing of the Holy Spirit till the day of redemption, and the inheritance of God)
2. In light of God's incredible and glorious grace, Paul commends the Ephesians for the central dimensions and elements of authentic maturity in Jesus: *A stellar faith in the Lord Jesus, An intense love toward all the saints, 1.15b*
 - a. Faith working through love, Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.
 - b. Work of faith, labor of love, 1 Thess. 1:3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c. A growing faith, and an increasing love, 2 Thess. 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
 - d. The aim of the commandment, 1 Tim. 1:5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
3. Ephesians 1.15-23 is also a single, continuous, unbroken sentence in koine Greek (a pregnant and remarkable prayer and affirmation of the glory of Jesus Christ!)

B. Supplication for wisdom and revelation, Eph. 1.16-18a

Eph. 1:16-18a I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a 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

1. Unceasing thanksgiving and remembrance in his prayers, 1.16: *Paul's prayers for the churches always included thanksgiving*
 - a. For the Romans, Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.
 - b. For those in Corinth, 1 Cor. 1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus

- c. For those in Philippi, Phil. 1:3-4 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy
 - d. For those in Colossae, Col. 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you
 - e. For the Thessalonians, 1 Thess. 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
2. Prayer that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 1.17
- a. Note the Spirit of the Lord's fullness in Christ, Isaiah 11:2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 - b. The teaching of the Holy Spirit upon us, John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
 - c. The wisdom of the Spirit, Acts 6:10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.
 - d. Christ as the source of all wisdom and knowledge, Col. 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - e. The wisdom from above, James 3:17-18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
3. Prayer for the "eyes of your hearts enlightened," 1.18: *the key to comprehending the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ is the opening of our spiritual eyes to see the wonder of God's power in Christ*
- a. Only the Lord can open our eyes to comprehend the richness of the glory of Christ within the Scriptures, Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.
 - b. The ministry of Christ, the Servant of God, will be to open the eyes of the blind, Isaiah 42:7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 - c. Beware! Our hearts can grow dull, our ears and eyes affected adversely, Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'
 - d. The enemy seeks to interfere with our understanding and appreciation of God's majesty in Christ
 - (1) Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
 - (2) 2 Cor. 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

II. That We May Know the Power of the Risen Christ, Eph. 1.18b-23

A. The hope, the riches, and the power, Eph. 1.18b-19

Eph. 1:18b-19 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

1. To know the hope to which he has called you, 1.18b
 - a. A hope that does not put us to shame, Romans 5:4-5 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
 - b. A hope that is unseen, Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? [25] But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
 - c. A hope for righteousness, Galatians 5:5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.
 - d. A single hope that belongs to our call, Eph. 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call

- e. A hope laid up for us in heaven, Col. 1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel
 - f. A hope that is blessed, Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
 - g. A hope of eternal life, Titus 3:7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - h. A hope that is alive, 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
2. To know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 1.18c
 - a. The riches of his *grace*, Eph. 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
 - b. The unsearchable riches of *Christ*, Eph. 3:8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
 - c. The riches of *God's glory*, Eph. 3:16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
 3. To know and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might, 1.19: *three Greek terms for power here!*
 - a. *Dunamis*: "spiritually dynamic power," Eph. 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
 - b. *Engergian*: "the working (i.e., energy) of his power"
 - c. *Kratous*: "the power that overcomes resistance"

B. The Reign of Christ the King: the high Christology of Ephesians, Eph. 1.20-23

Eph. 1:20-23 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.

1. God's power worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 1.20
 - a. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
 - b. The same one crucified is the One whom God has raised, Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.
 - c. Raised and ascended at the right hand of God, Romans 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
2. Christ is exalted 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. 1.21
 - a. Christ is exalted with the highest name, Phil. 2:9-10 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth
 - b. Now exalted as the head of all rule and authority, Col. 2:10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
 - c. Superior to the angels and principalities, Hebrews 1:4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.
 - d. No principality or power can overcome his love, Romans 8:38-39 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - e. He created them and they exist for him, Col. 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him

- and for him.
- f. All heavenly beings are now subject to his rule, 1 Peter 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.
3. God has put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 1.22
- a. The fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures, Psalm 8:6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet
 - b. He must reign until all his enemies are placed under his feet, 1 Cor. 15:25-27 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27] For " God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.
 - c. The rule to come will consummate his reign and exaltation, Hebrews 2:8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.
4. Christ is head of the church, his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. 1.23
- a. The "called out" company belongs to Christ himself, Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - b. The Church bought with his blood, Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
 - c. Both Jew and Gentile reconciled in him, Eph. 2:16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
 - d. The Savior of the body, Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.
 - e. Preeminent in all things, even in the Church, Col. 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

C. Conclusion: *According to the Father's will, Christ returns to subject all things under his will, Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*



Get On the Strait and Narrow—Follow the King!

In a world that acknowledges nothing as ultimate, believers continue to affirm that the crucified Jesus of Nazareth has been raised from the dead by the power of God. He has been given a name above all names, authority above all angels, principalities and powers, and headship over the Church. In all things God has determined and decreed that Christ be given the preeminence, and we await his appearing when he will be exalted as head over all. The Father has placed all things under his feet, and Christ will reign as Lord forever. In this final celebration during the Season after Pentecost, we affirm and acknowledge Jesus of Nazareth as both Lord and Christ.

The Season After Pentecost: The Reign of Christ the King (Year A, 2008)

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Eph. 1.22-23 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.

In a world that glorifies self-will, and swears by each person's right to shape and determine the course of their own life, Christians acknowledge One who is Lord. Unlike those who assert private will and personal preference as the inviolate standards of all life, we affirm that God has raised up Jesus from the dead by his divine power, and that he alone is exalted over all. No angels, powers, principalities, or realities function without his oversight and rule; one day, God's

sacred oath will be fulfilled and the Kingdom authority will be granted to Christ forever. Until that day, we acknowledge Jesus as Lord in the Church, and gladly obey him as Lord and Christ. In the midst of a society where individual rights are determined as final, we celebrate Christ as Lord, and look forward to his coming reign as King in the earth.

Morning Collect: Eternal God our Father, give us the wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus as Lord and King. Enable us to see him as he truly is, the King and Lord of all, and the One appointed by You as both Judge and Ruler of all. In his name we pray, amen.

Evening Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, King and Lord of all, we acknowledge You as our soon and coming King of the world. Grant us grace to see You as the exalted Ruler of all, and give us strength to proclaim You as Lord in all we do and say in our lives. We praise You and we bless You. In Your name we pray, amen.

Memory Verse: **MTB, New Beginnings in Christ: Series 1. Topic 2, Repentance and Faith, Repent and Turn to God.**
Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, [15] and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."