

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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HILLTOP LAKES CHAPEL
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Studies in Ephesians
Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ 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 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 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.

v 15 – “having heard of your faith...”

This is still what is important

Having heard of your *faith*...

And your *love toward all the saints*...

How might this be the reputation for Hilltop Lakes Chapel (with respect to *members* vs the “church”)

v 16 – “I do not cease to give thanks...”

Paul was a man of prayer—great intercessory prayer

Queen Mary of the Scots: “I fear the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe.”

All effective Christian leaders have been people of devoted and effective prayer

Paul’s prayer:

v 17 – that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...

the Father of Glory – All the attributes of God and for which He is praised and adored

the Spirit of wisdom...— godliness in living and in insight

and of revelation—understanding what has been revealed in Christ

in the knowledge of Him (Christ)—more than “book knowledge”—a full, experiential knowledge

This is God’s will for us!

vv 18-20 – “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened...”

a double metaphor!

Those things that we not only perceive (eyes) but to which we also give our devotion (hearts)

“being enlightened”—this comes from God

This is necessary, “*that you may know*...”

“what is the hope to which He has called you...”—*hope*

“what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”—Do we know?
“and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”—What does this mean? Power—*effectiveness*. Immeasurably great!

“according to the working of the strength of his might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead”!

Do we (far) underestimate Christ’s victory and what has been done *for us*?

It was a cosmic event, and belonging to Christ is to belong to the King of the universe—and more!

cf “Undercover Boss”

“and seated him at his [the Father’s] right hand in the heavenly places”

Throughout the Scripture, we are told that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father

This may be a “metaphor”—but the truth it conveys is towering and eternal

Jesus Christ is Lord of All!—And He is our Lord, Savior, and Friend!

v 21 — “far above all rule and authority...”

Lest there be any doubt...

Do we know Whom we serve?

Do we believe this as we should?

v 22 — “And he put all things under his feet...”

Thing put “under his feet” specifically refers to all forces that have opposed Christ—their defeat and his victory

“and gave him as head over all things to the church”—Here, also, is complete authority—but not of a Victor over his enemies

He is Head over all things in the Church—that is not in question. Our obedience *is* sometimes in question.

v 23 — “which is His body...”

This is both practical and spiritual beyond our full comprehension

The Church is the body of Christ—not his organization or his group—but his body

This can only be understood spiritually—otherwise it is simply not understood

“the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

More lit. “the fullness of Him, all in all filling.”

The Church is Christ’s body—ever expressing Christ in His fullness

“all in all filling”—and it is Christ, through His Spirit, who fills each member and manifests Christ’s presence in countless, ongoing ways.