Ephesians 1:19-2:7

Raised and Seated With Christ Over All Things

Sermon

Anyone who has been hiking in the mountains will tell you there is something about slowly walking through the canopy of trees hanging overhead. You are seeing the forest from a certain vantage point. There is also something about standing on an adjacent mountain and getting a landscape picture of the entire forest.

I see the study of Scripture this way. There is a forest trail view, and a forest view. If we want to know Ephesians well (any book of the Bible really), we have to become familiar with both vantage points – the big picture and the small details. The word is "context". You can't know someone's intention or meaning without context. ***Right context leads to right application which leads to right living.*** Context is crucial or else you could mistake a spruce tree to be an oak; you could go down the wrong trail and get lost in the woods. You should always be asking the text questions, and context often gives you the answers.

As we go through Ephesians verse by verse, we are looking at the trees on the trail in the forest closely. Sometimes we look at the bark on the trees. Sometimes we look with a magnifying glass. We want to see what God wants for us to see. The forest view enables us to see the bigger picture. The trails and trees mark out the boundaries, the blazes (markers on the trail), the trailheads, and the forks in the road. Both vantage points keep us on the right path in discovering what God's Word means for us today as we journey through Ephesians.

This morning I want to set us on the mountain and examine a single trail of the forest together. We might call the trail, "the power of God over all things". Paul wants for us to know this power.

First, lets briefly look at Ephesians in 1:9-10 once again:

> **[God is] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite [reconcile, sum up] all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)**

In Christ, all things are reconciled – things in heaven, and things on the earth. A cosmic reconciliation. An eternal rule over all things. That's Ephesians. This is a massive worldview that claims to be the solution to every problem in the UNIVERSE.

The trailhead we're currently entering into is "the power of God over all things in raising and seating Christ". Two thousand years ago, God crucified His Son Jesus on a cross as a payment for sin, and then raised Jesus from the dead conquering sin and death. This brought reconciliation between God and man, for those who put their faith in Jesus. God then seated Jesus at His right hand upon His eternal throne. This seating of Jesus over all things establishes His authority over all things that were formerly under the rule of evil from the fall.

Reconciliation and authority have been forever established through Jesus Christ when God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand. Paul wants for us to know God's power that accomplished this.

Now, let's get our eyes on the text and look at the trail: Paul is praying for the Ephesians. He has *heard of their faith and love* (1:15), he is *praying continually for them* (1:16), that the *Holy Spirit* would *awaken their hearts to intimately know* truths about God (1:17-18a). Last week we discussed this "knowing" as an intimate, experiential knowing. You can *know* about running, but that doesn't make you a runner. A runner is *intimately involved* – they *know* what the "runners high" is, they *know* what "the wall" is. Paul wants the Ephesians to *intimately know* (1:18a) *three things*: 1) "what is the hope to which He has called you" (1:18b); 2) "what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints" (1:18c); 3) "what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe." (1:19a)

Now…this last request in 1:19, that they "would intimately know God's immeasurable power toward us who believe" is like a new trailhead sign hanging on a tree with an arrow that points RIGHT. Paul now takes a sharp right and heads down this trail. Here is where the trail begins…where does it end? He wants us to intimately know God's power, and he will fully describe this power all the way until 2:7. ***In order to effectively understand this trail, we need to see where it begins and where it ends so that we can "intimately know the full display of God's power as Paul intends for us to know it".***

My goal for this morning: First, I want to give a summary description of the entire trail in 1:19-2:7. Second, I want to show you the trail markers in the text, Last, I want to show how Paul means for us to "know" this power of God in Christ in our lives here and now.

Here is my summary description of the trail – Paul wants for the Ephesians *to* ***intimately know*** God's ***immeasurable power for the greater purpose*** of knowing God's ***immeasurable grace and kindness*** forever (1:19a; 2:7). This power he wants for them to know is displayed ***by raising and seating Christ*** over all heavenly and earthly things, ***and*** by ***raising us with*** and ***seating us with Christ*** over all heavenly and earthly things (1:20; 2:6). ***Jesus is seated*** in ***heavenly places over all spiritual evil***, and ***over all earthly things***, and ***as head over the church***. We were under the power of Satan and the fallen world, but ***we now are "seated with Him"*** above all heavenly and earthly things (1:21-23). God's power is seen in ***raising Jesus from the dead*** (1:20). ***We were dead,*** but God's power ***"made us alive together with Christ***" so what we too are raised to life. (2:1-5).

1. **God's immeasurable power is for the glory of God's immeasurable grace (1:19; 2:7)**

Look at 1:19a and 2:7 together with me…Paul wants for them to know…

What is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe (1:19a) …

…Paul then shows this power in raising and seating Christ and raising and seating us with Christ…

> ***…so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (2:7)***

Notice these verses parallel one another. Here is the trailhead (1:19) and the trail end (2:7). Notice that God's ***immeasurable power towards us***, corresponds to ***God's immeasurable grace towards us*** so that the former serves and is causal to the latter.

The word "immeasurable" here is the same word in both 1:19 and 2:7. The word means "to cast beyond". If a child throws the baseball to the catcher from the outfield, he demonstrates his power. But if he wants to show "immeasurable" power, he casts it beyond the catcher. This is a theme throughout Scripture – God is constantly revealing His power and grace as "immeasurable". For example - we read in 1:7 that we have "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, *according to the riches of His grace."*

God demonstrates His power in this age, in Christ, for a greater purpose, namely, to demonstrate His grace and kindness "in the coming ages" (forever).

You've known this to be true in your own life. You go through something that is overwhelming you, and you think you have no power left (maybe some of you feel that way right now), but you surrender it to the Lord in faith, and you make the decision, "I will trust and obey the Lord in this!", and God's power comes through and there is victory! You have power to obey God…there is no excuse for the Christian! In the end, you don't say, "*I'm so thankful that I had the strength within me to make it through*!" Rather, you say, "*I had no strength left, but God's power came through and He saw me to the other side! WHAT A GRACIOUS AND KIND GOD!"*

2. God's power is displayed by raising and seating Christ, *and* raising and seating *us with Christ* (1:20; 2:6)

Paul wants us to know God's immeasurable power…

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 (1:19b-20)

..now see the connection to 2:6…

[God] ***raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (2:6)***

Notice that these verses also parallel one another just as 1:19 and 2:7 do. God has raised and seated Christ (1:20), and that corresponds to raising and seating us WITH CHRIST (2:6). The words for raised and seated in 1:20 are the *exact same words* in 2:6, but they are modified to mean ***"with raised"*** and ***"with seated".*** Christ was ***raised and seated*** (1:20), we are ***"with raised"*** and ***"with seated"*** (2:6)

Notice also WHERE Christ is seated, namely, on a throne - at the right hand - "in the heavenly places" (1:20). Notice where we are seated, namely, "in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (2:6). We are NOT ON THE THRONE of Jesus, but we are *WITH THE ENTHRONED JESUS*. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are intimately connected to Him – His life, His death, and His victorious power.

It doesn't help us to know God's power in raising and seating Jesus, unless we intimately know that this same power is also available to us. *IT IS!* Paul doesn't want us to simply know God's power in Jesus. He wants us to know that we are intimately connected to Jesus, and therefore, intimately connected to His power. What kind of power? RESURRECTION POWER! ENTHRONEMENT POWER!

Power over sin and the grave. Power over every evil authority. Power over things in heaven and things on earth. Jesus is raised and seated in heavenly places, and we are raised and seated WITH HIM in heavenly places. Paul wants us to intimately know this power.

3. God's power *seated* Jesus over all heavenly and earthly things (1:21-23)

Paul does something interesting here, he mentions Jesus is ***raised from the dead***, and that He is ***seated at the right hand of God in 1:20***. Then he further elaborates in 1:21-23 on the "seating" power of Jesus while setting aside the "raising" power of Jesus. However, later on he will return to the "raising" power of Jesus. In 1:21-23 we see what Jesus is seated over…The Father has…

> **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. (1:21-23)**

We are going to look at all of this in more detail over the next two weeks. There is MASSIVE Old Testament fulfillment here. For now, notice that Jesus is seated "***at the right hand of God***" – a position of authority and power. Notice that He is "***seated***"…He is sitting on the throne, in fulfillment of God's promise to King David that from him will come a King, the Messiah, who will reign forever. IS HE SEATED AS KING OVER YOUR LIFE? His throne is "***far above all rule and authority and power and dominion***". This is the kind of power God wants for us to know…the power that is over spiritual evil authorities. Satan and His demons who in a very real way are in control of this world – Jesus is seated over them…and if you are in Christ you have "kingly power" over the devil! When He speaks THEY OBEY HIS EVERY COMMAND! From His Word…they flee! So Resist the devil church and he will FLEE FROM YOU (James 4:7)! God has ***"put all things under His feet" –*** as Adam was meant to rule over all things, but he lost that privilege through sin, the Second Adam, Jesus, now has all things put under His feet (Heb. 6:5-16). This is the fulfillment of the seed of Eve crushing the head of Satan…under His feet. This is the fulfillment of the creation mandate (Gen. 1:28) given by God to Adam to rule over all things. This is the fulfillment of the Messiah, who in Psalm 110 is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, now ruling with all things under His feet. And Jesus is the HEAD over the church – the body of Christ – the source of all earthly reconciliation – no longer hostility between Jews/Gentiles (2:11-22)…through the church Jesus is reconciling the things on the earth. The is the power of the Father in seating Christ in a great position of authority and putting all things back in their proper order that Satan spun out of control.

How is the "seating" power of God known to us? The world around us, not just earthly things, but heavenly things have been placed over us through the fall. Prior to the fall, all things were placed under Adam. After the fall, all things were placed OVER Adam. We are born IN ADAM. And so in Adam, we are subject to all things – heavenly and earthly. We are born under the power of Satan (rulers, authorities, dominions, powers) – in Adam. We are born under the control of this world – earthly things - in Adam. Creation, the grave itself, is over us – in Adam. "From dust you came, to dust you shall return". What is a cemetery? It is a physical representation of creation over man. But now we are BORN AGAIN…and the man, Jesus Christ – the Second Adam – is seated over all things and all things are put under His feet, and IN HIM, under ours as well. **How Then Shall We Pray church? With power, with**

authority! That enemy, that hostility, that demonic power that once enslaved you…or that you perhaps have once again given a foothold in your life…it is UNDER THE FEET OF JESUS, and His kingly power is available to you!

4. God's power raised Jesus from the dead and we who were dead are now made alive in Him (2:1-5)

Paul has shared the power of God in ***seating Christ*** (1:21-23), and now he circles back to ***the raising power of Christ***…

Jesus was…"***raised from the dead***" (1:20) by the Father…

..then in 2:1…

> ***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins***

…again in 2:4,5…

> **But God…even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (2:4-5)**

Jesus was raised from the dead, you were dead, but in Jesus you were made alive together with Christ – this is the resurrection power Paul wants for us to know. The power of God in raising Jesus, is connected to raising us with Jesus. Now the chapter break here is very bad. It's broken right in the middle of Paul's trail of thought!

We were dead, Christ died. God raised Christ from the dead, and God raised us from the dead in Christ. This is the power of God over sin and death through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Adam, we were dead to God (2:1). We were under the control of Satan, "the prince of the power of the air" (2:2), we were enslaved to the "passions of our flesh" and "carrying out the desires of the body and mind" (2:3). We were "by nature children of wrath" (2:3). We were OUT OF CONTROL! We had no power over the devil, no power over our passions and fleshly desires – enslaved! – and because of our sinful state we were facing the wrath of God. But God….even when we were dead "made us alive together with Christ". This is the power of God that Paul wants for us to intimately know! Christian…sin has no power over you!

Here is the whole trail in the form of a chiasm (explain chiasm)…

1:19 - God's ***immeasurable*** power is displayed…

1:20 - …when He ***raised Him*** from the dead and ***seated Him*** at His right hand.

1:21-23 - …seated Him in the heavenly places

2:1-5 - …we were dead…God "made us alive together with Christ"

2:6 - …and ***"with raised us"*** and ***"with seated us"*** in the heavenly places

2:7 - …so that God's ***immeasurable*** grace might be displayed

Application

In closing…Ephesians is all about seeing things from God's perspective. This morning, do you see yourself, in Christ, raised and seated over sin, death, the devil, the hostility in the world? Do you see the church as the vehicle by which reconciliation - not only between Jew and Gentile - but to the whole world is brought about?

There are two massive lies the devil loves to tell the world today:

- **For those who have not surrender to Jesus as King, the lie of the devil is, "You are Powerful!"**
    - **"You have it all together. You got this. You are strong. You are a good person. You'll make to heaven, obviously, you're a good person. Christianity is just a means to be an even better person…kind of like all religion."**
    - **Eph. 2:1-3 - You are dead! Not powerful. You are under the control of Satan and the world and the flesh. You are facing the anger and punishment of God for your sin! You need to surrender to the only one who can defeat your sin, the devil, and your passions/desires, and overcome the wrath of God!**
    - ***Jesus didn't come to make strong people stronger, He came to make DEAD PEOPLE ALIVE!***
- **For those who have Jesus as King over their lives the lie is, "You are powerless"**
    - **To the non-believer, the lie is "you're powerful". To the believer, the lie is "you're powerless!**
    - **"You have no power over sin. You have no power in your marriage. You don't have to fight a fight…didn't Jesus do it all for you anyways? You don't need to grow in holiness…after all, you've tried and you've failed. The devil is too powerful for you!**
    - **Truth: "you have resurrection power! You have the power of the enthroned King available to you! God is NOT DONE WITH you yet…He wants to conquer every area of sin in your life. The devil has NO POWER OVER YOU…ONLY what you give to him! All he can do is roar!**
- **How do you do war with strongholds?**
    - **First, name what the stronghold is.** What is it? Right now, name it. Jesus is seated over it! He has power over it…and you have power in Him over it.
    - **Second, repent and put it to death**….NOW.
    - **Third, Resolve to fight** against this with the power of God's authority – His Word.
    - **Last, when you fall…get back up and keep fighting.**

Next week we'll go back into the forest…we're going to carefully look at this power now…bit by bit, stronghold by stronghold. God wants us to intimately know victory as we are intimately connected to a victorious King who is raised and seated over all things.

Let's pray.