



## We are the body of Christ

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We fulfill this prayer and live in Jesus' fullness

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Ephesians 1:15-23

October 22, 2023

**Ebenezer Balfour...**

**Paul introduces his prayer with thanks**

v. 15-16

**Paul prays for us:**

That we'd receive spiritual wisdom

v. 16-19

That we'd see revealed knowledge of Him

That we'd be enlightened to know God's blessings

**God wants us to understand the resurrected Christ:**

v. 19-23

His strength

His supremacy

**God grants a remarkable summary of the church:**

v. 22-23

It is the beautiful body of Christ

The church is described as Christ's body (Col. 1:18). It is so not only as a symbol but in fact. Paul uses the same language later in Ephesians (4:4, 12, 16; 5:30). The church is not an institution but an organism. It exists and functions only by reason of its vital relationship with the risen Lord who is its Head. – A. Skevington Wood, *Ephesians*

It is filled with the fullness of Jesus

There is given to the Church, and for the Church's benefit, a head who is also head over all things. The Church has authority and power to overcome all opposition because her leader and head is Lord of all.  
– Francis Foulkes, *The Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians*

'Filled with Jesus' can be illustrated with a food parallel. Worldly/pagan wisdom is empty and lacks nutritious value. It might fill you up, but it comprises empty calories that just make you unhealthy and warp your natural beauty. – Lacyn Ward

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Upcoming  
Events

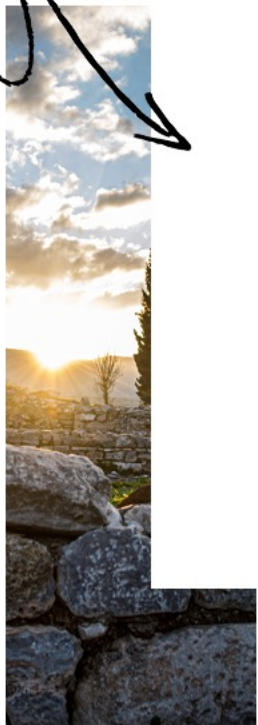


Give

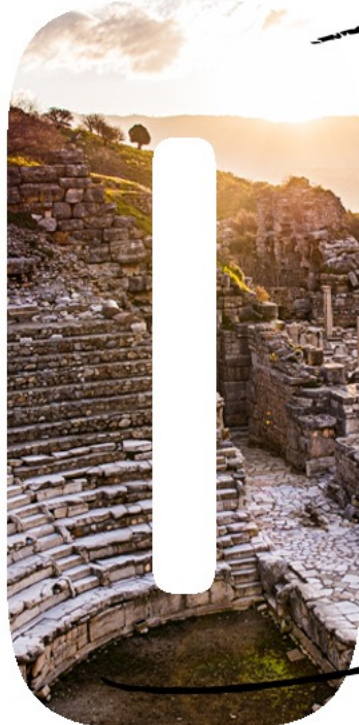


Connect Card  
&  
Prayer Request

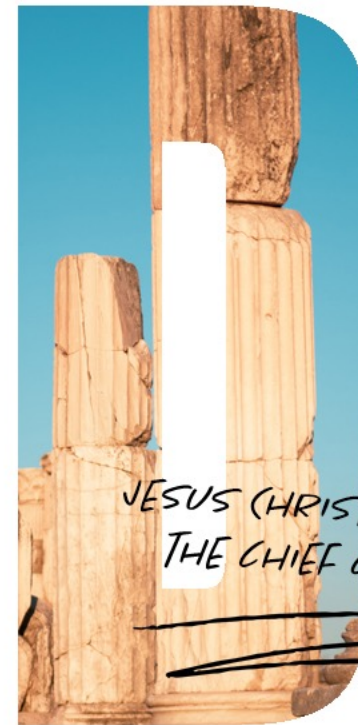
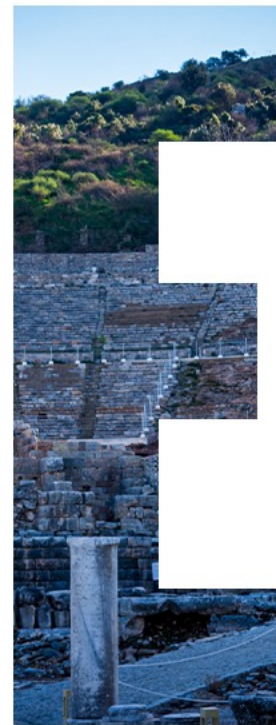
# IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS  
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED  
IN LOVE

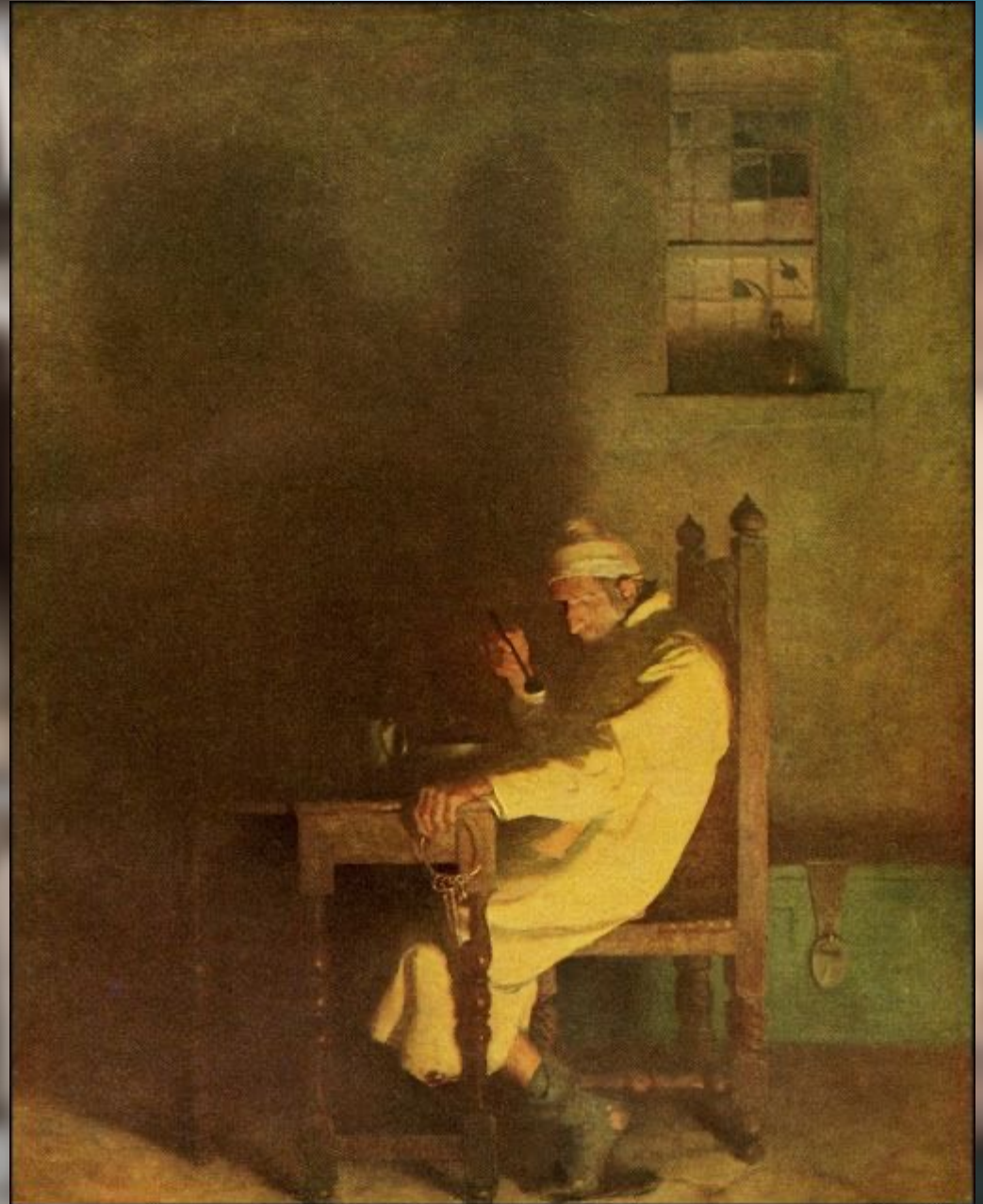


JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING  
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

## EPHESIANS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

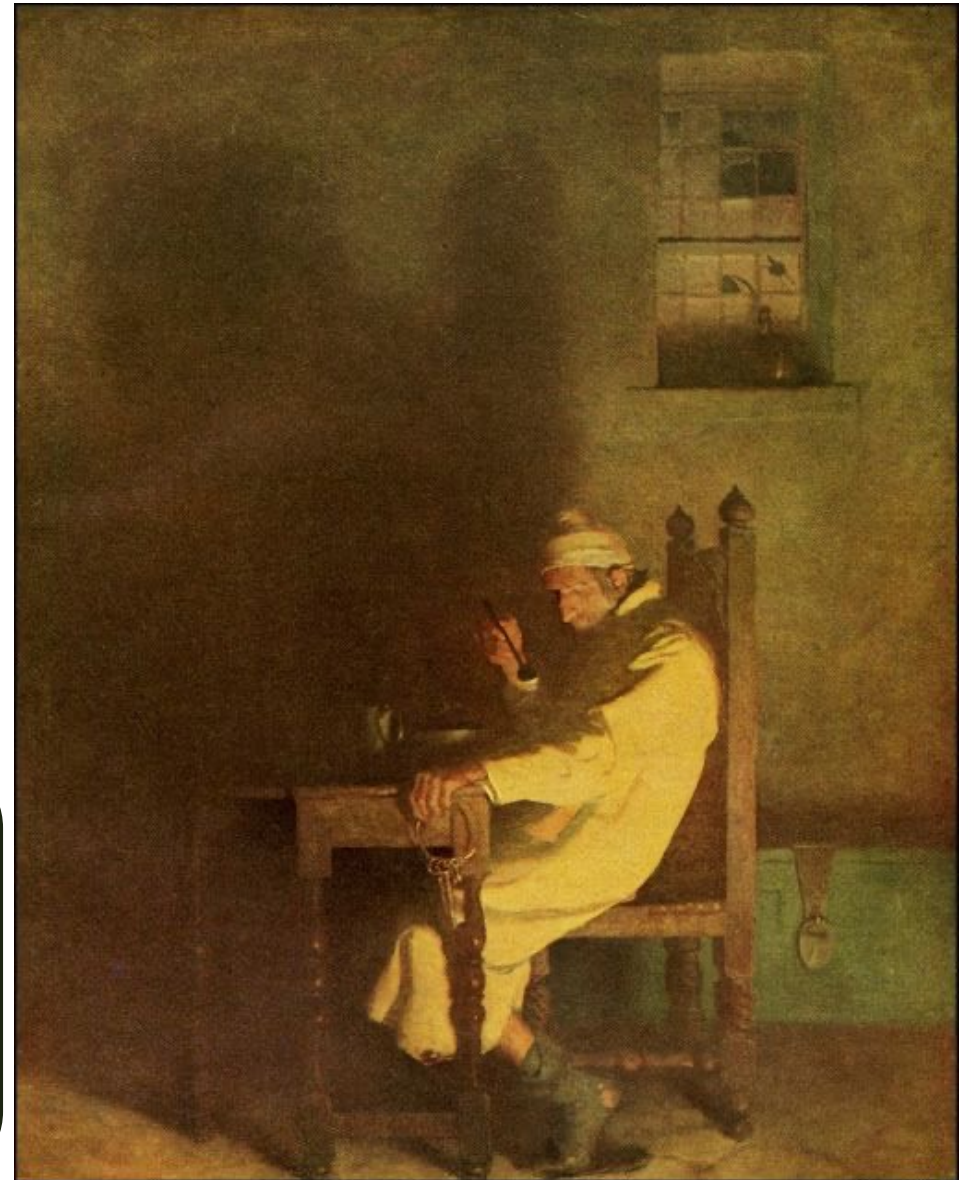
*Mr. Balfour of the House of Shaws*  
N.C. Wyeth  
1918

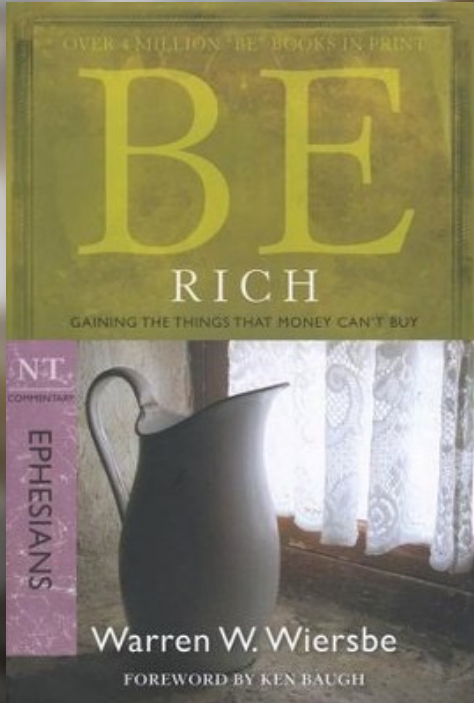


courtesy Scribner's

**Ebenezer Balfour takes biblical prudence and warps it into miserliness. This rich man lives like he has nothing. Instead of rejoicing in God's goodness, Mr. Balfour is proud of his self-imposed suffering.**

*Mr. Balfour of the House of Shaws*  
N.C. Wyeth  
1918





**Miserliness serves as an illustration of too many Christian believers today. They have limitless wealth at their disposal, yet they live like paupers.  
– Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich***

**I never did like the word mediocre  
I never wanted it to be said of me  
So, what is this thing I see  
Going on inside of me**

**The wonder of His grace  
Should take my breath away  
I miss so many things**

**When I'm content with playing Gameboy standing in the middle of the  
Grand Canyon**

**I'm eating candy sitting at a gourmet feast**

**I'm wading in a puddle when I could be swimming in the ocean**





**I know the time has come for me to  
Wake up and see the Glory**

**“See the Glory” by Steven Curtis &  
Caleb Chapman**

**Chapman recorded “See the Glory” as a song, and producer Brown Bannister made a brilliant little addition. In the middle of the song – what’s called “the bridge” – Bannister imposed some tinny little sounds from a Nintendo system. But after a few seconds, those sounds get swallowed up by an orchestra playing Ferde Grofe’s majestic “Grand Canyon Suite.”**



**Please place video here**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcnPG\\_5PDhY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcnPG_5PDhY)

Start at 2:18. End at 2:38.

**<sup>15</sup> This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.**

**<sup>20</sup> He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—<sup>21</sup> far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> *And he subjected everything under his feet* [Psalm 8] and appointed him as head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.**

**Ephesians 1 CSB**

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

**EPHESIANS**

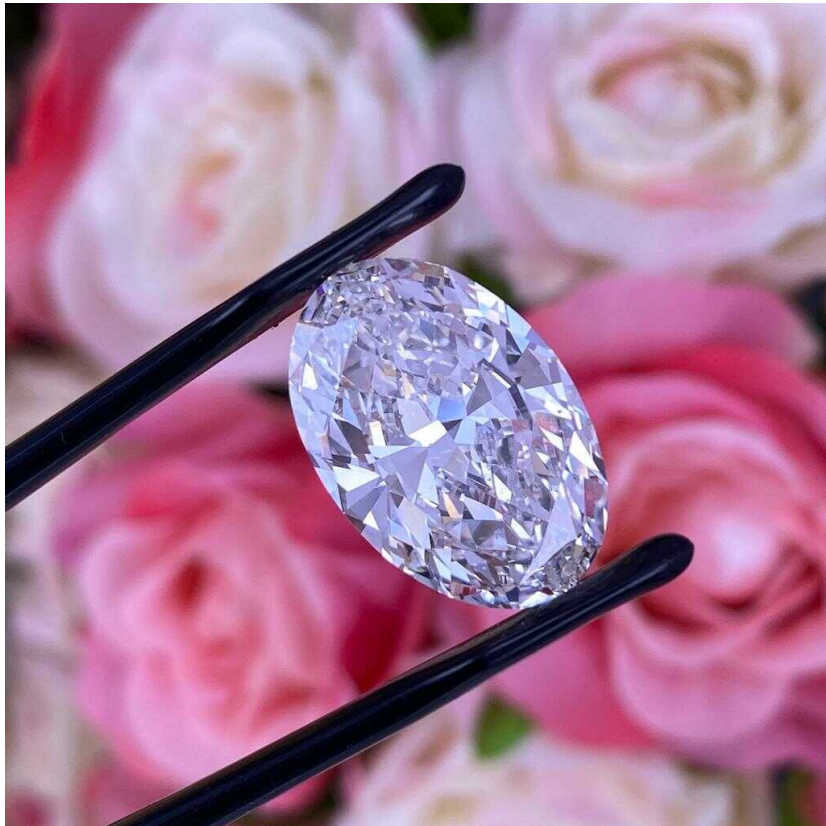
PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

**15 This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.**



**Ephesians 1 CSB**

**10 karat living in a costume jewelry world**

## **Typical 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D. letter**

### **Introduction:**

**statements of praise  
words of affection**

### **Prayer:**

**to the gods  
on behalf of recipients**

## **Paul's letter to Ephesus**

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**statements of praise  
words of affection**

### **Prayer:**

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



**16 ...as I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know**

- what is the hope of his calling,**
- what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and**
- what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...**

**Ephesians 1 CSB**



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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

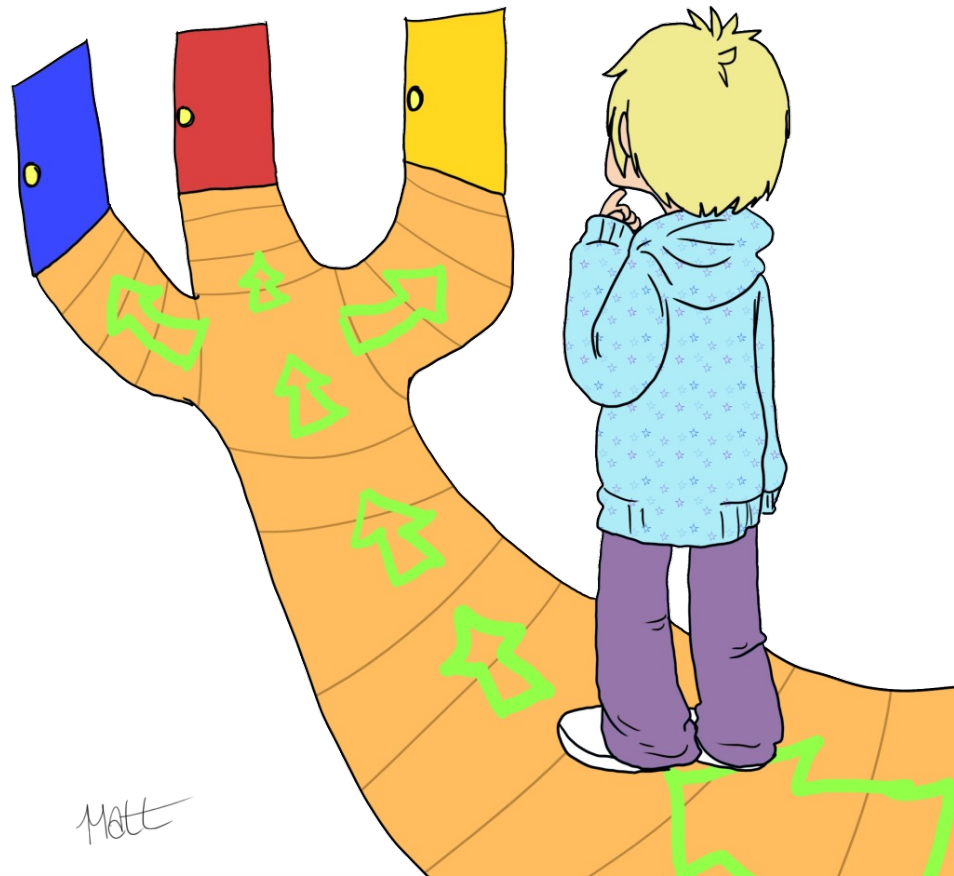


**Greek: πνεῦμα σοφία pneuma sophia =**

- 1) a spirit of wisdom, a special one-time gift.**
- 2) spiritual wisdom, ongoing discernment in spiritual things.**

**17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.**

**Ephesians 1 CSB**



**Greek: πνεῦμα σοφία pneuma  
sophia = spiritual wisdom, ongoing  
discernment in spiritual things.**



**Lord, give our children wisdom to overcome our parenting – especially all the parts we think are good, but that will later be exposed as foolish.**

**17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.**

***Solomon's Vision***

**Luca Giordano**

**1694-95**



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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

**<sup>1</sup> The heavens proclaim the glory of God.  
The skies display his craftsmanship.**  
**<sup>2</sup> Day after day they continue to speak;  
night after night they make him known.**

**Psalm 19 NLT**

**<sup>7</sup> The instruction of the LORD is perfect,  
renewing one's life;  
the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy,  
making the inexperienced wise.**

**<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
making the heart glad;  
the command of the LORD is radiant,  
making the eyes light up.**

**Psalm 19 CSB**

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



**Please place video here**

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/6PKsS3qv\\_Ss.](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/6PKsS3qv_Ss)

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

**<sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.**

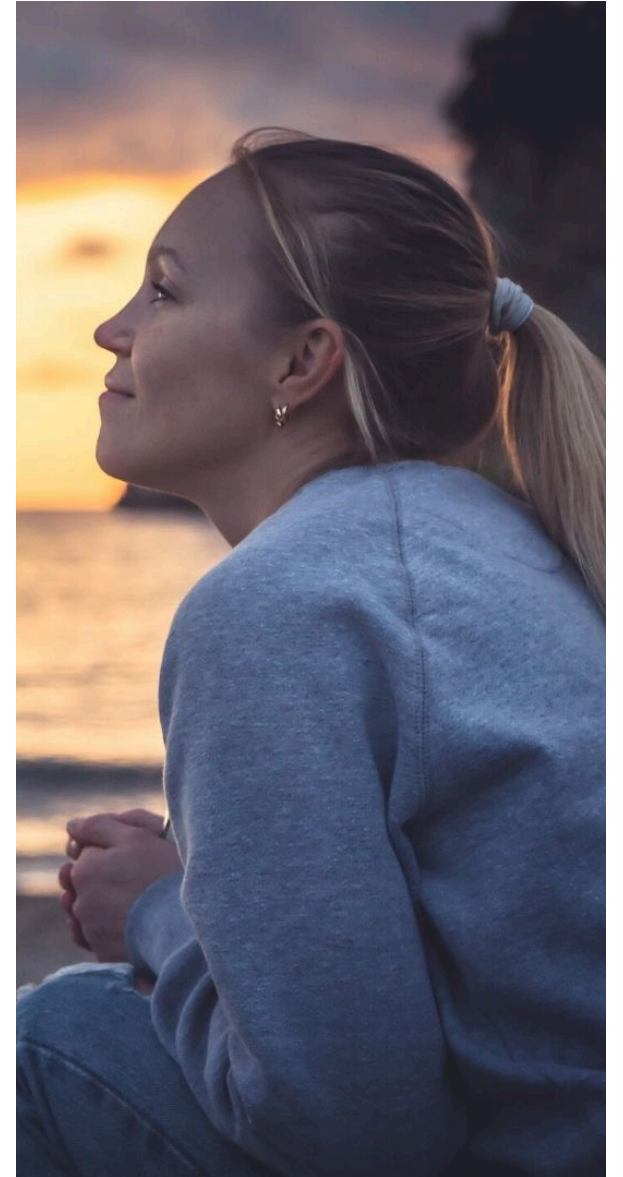
**Ephesians 1 CSB**



courtesy freestock

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



# Ephesians 1 CSB

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<sup>19</sup> and what is the **immeasurable** **greatness** of his **power** toward us who believe, according to the **mighty** **working** of his **strength**.

Ephesians 1 CSB

**Immeasurable** – from a term for beyond reach, like a Texas Rangers’ homerun  
**Greatness** – from the *mega* root

**Power** – from a dynamite word meaning miraculous strength

**Working** – a combo of energy + efficiency, as if all this power expenditure is really easy for Jesus





courtesy Australia alive

# Ephesians 1 CSB

<sup>19</sup> and what is the **immeasurable** **greatness** of his **power** toward us who believe, according to the **mighty** **working** of his **strength**.



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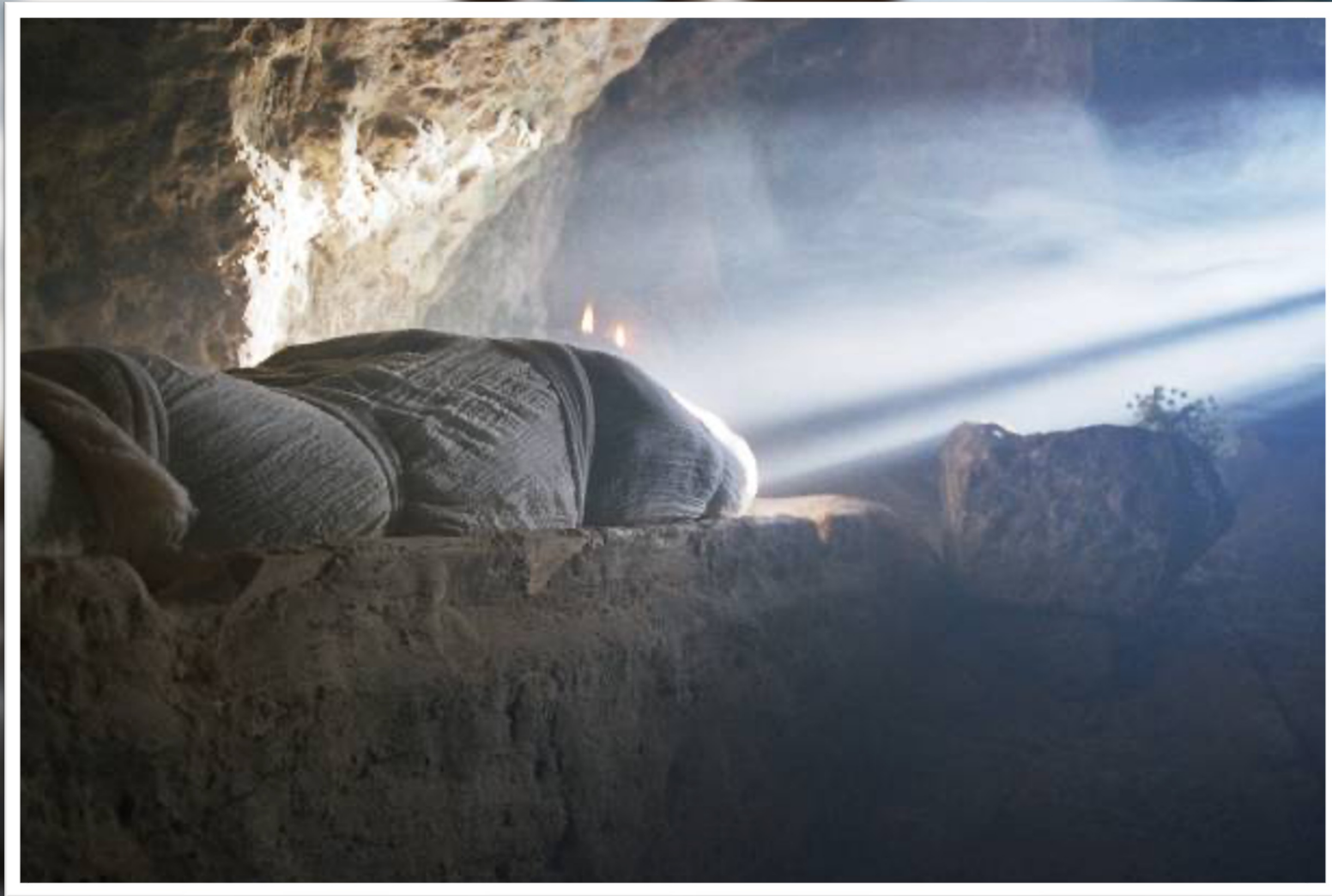
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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



courtesy istock

## Ephesians 1 CSB

**19** according to the mighty working of his strength. **20** He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—**21** far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And *he subjected everything under his feet* [Psalm 8] and appointed him as head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.



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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

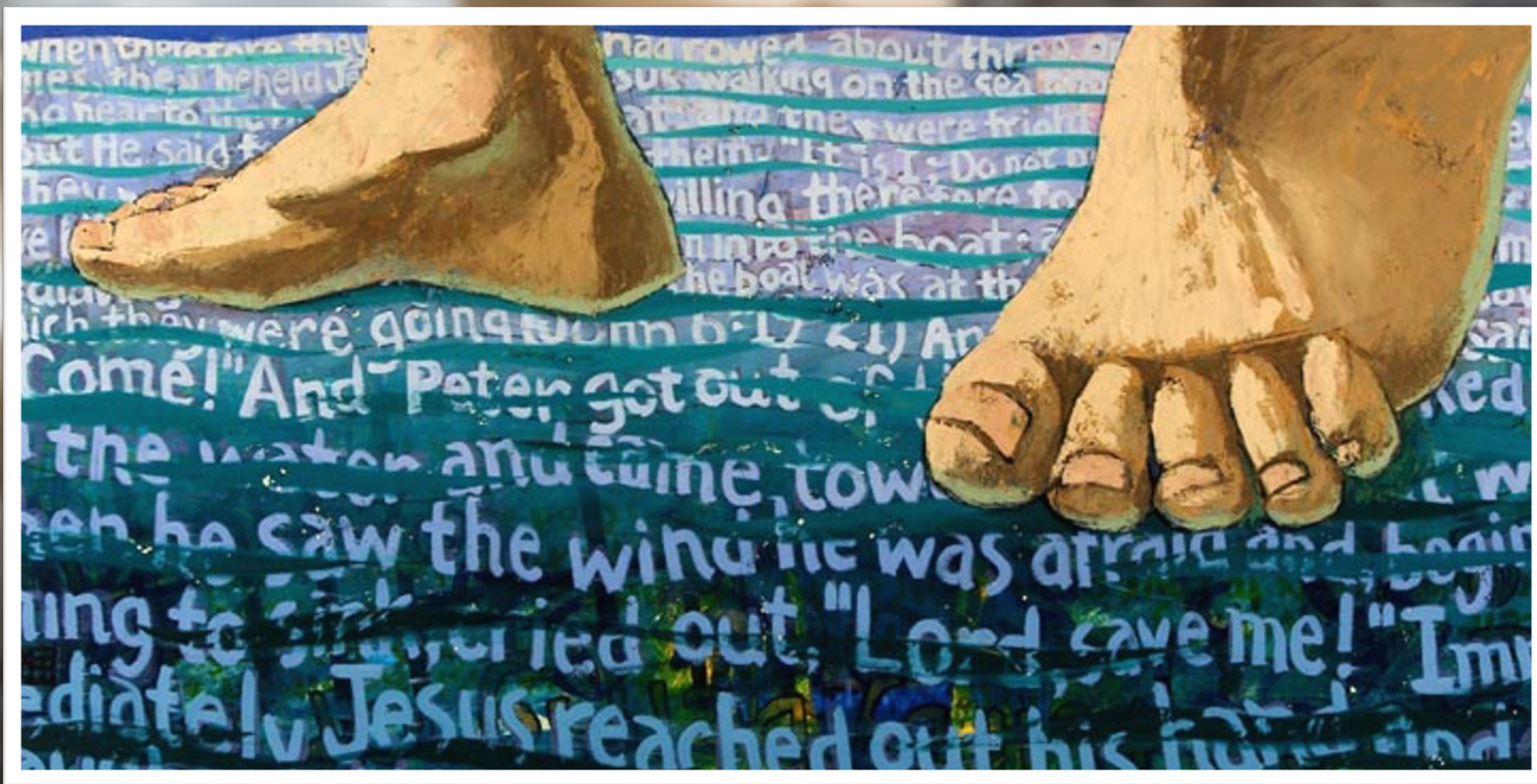
**17 “This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”**

**John 10 CSB**



MY GOD IS  
SO BIG  
STRONG  
& MIGHTY  
THERE'S NOTHING  
MY GOD  
CANNOT DO





*All things under his feet*  
Wayne Forte  
2010

***22 And he subjected everything under his feet [Psalm 8] and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.***

**Ephesians 1 CSB**

***Is that how my life is lived...in loving submission to Jesus all the time?***



***22 And he subjected everything under his feet [Psalm 8] and appointed him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.***

**Ephesians 1 CSB**



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**Ephesians 1 CSB**



# Leaders

Leaders are like eagles...we don't  
have any here.



A few flakes working together  
can stymie all productivity.



# Meetings

No one of us is as dumb  
as all of us.





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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

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**The church is described as Christ's body (Col. 1:18). It is so not only as a symbol but in fact. Paul uses the same language later in Ephesians (4:4, 12, 16; 5:30). The church is not an institution but an organism. It exists and functions only by reason of its vital relationship with the risen Lord who is its Head.**

**– A. Skevington Wood, *Ephesians***



**<sup>7</sup> How beautiful  
on the mountains  
are the feet of the herald,  
who proclaims peace,  
who brings news of good things,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”**

**Isaiah 52 CSB**

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**Ephesians 1 CSB**

**Isaiah 52 CSB**

**the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way. Ephesians 1:22-23 CSB**



**All of us are broken this side of Eden, but God takes our pieces and molds a beautifully interconnected body out of it.**

**Brokenness is the path to beauty because the beauty we discover in the end is *redemptive* beauty, where we find God taking our fragmented nature, spiritually dead selves and hearts tainted by burdens, baggage, and demons and refashioning us into a work of art.**

**God is creating a work of cosmos within us through Christ, transforming the chaos of void, meaninglessness, guilt, remorse, shame, and death in us into a visionary work of art that bears the beautiful likeness of His Son. – Brian Chan, *The Purple Curtain***



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**Colossians 1  
ESV**

FOR  
IN  
CHRIST  
ALL  
THE  
FULLNESS  
OF  
THE  
DEITY  
LIVES  
IN  
BODILY  
FORM

**Ephesians 1 CSB**



courtesy istudy



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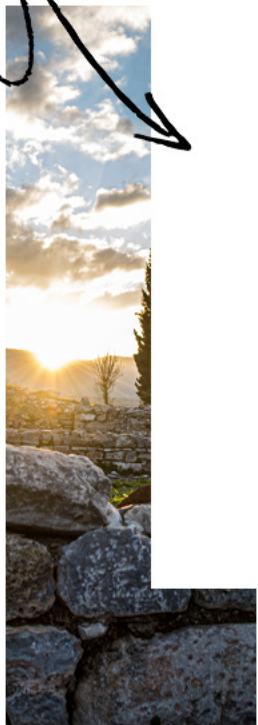
**Ephesians 1 CSB**

**<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

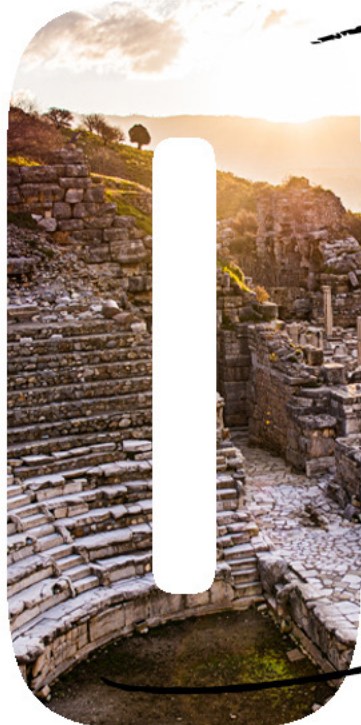
**<sup>20</sup> In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”**

**Luke 22 CSB**

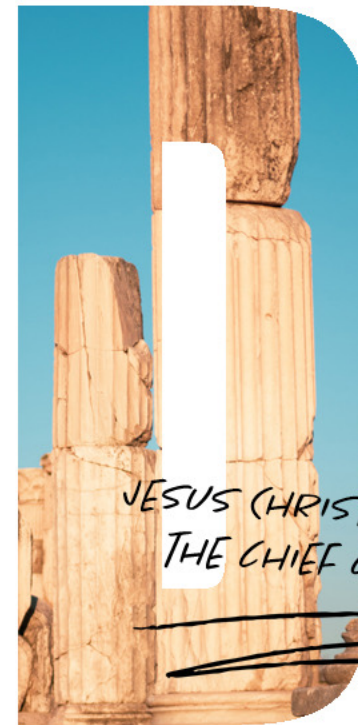
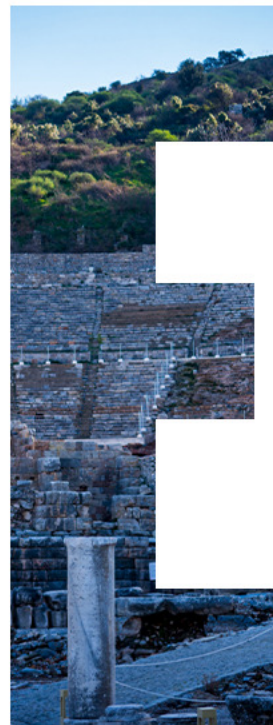
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