

Ephesians 1:20-23

What's God's Intention?

Image Church // Ephesians 1: God's Calling on Our Lives wk 4

Intro

Image Family, I hope you're doing well!

If you have your Bible, Ephesians 1...

- In our last week in this series through Ephesians 1...
- Excited about next week Pastor **Bryan Loritts** is going to be kicking off our next series called **Mountains**... *Where we're going to be looking at journeys of redemption displayed through mountaintop moments throughout the Bible...*
 - *It's going to be awesome, you're not going to want to miss it...*

*Alright, so let's jump into **Ephesians 1**...*

We've talked about **identity**, we've talked about **inheritance**, and we've talked about **inspiration**... This morning we're going to look at what Paul's going to show us next...

Build the tension: *I want you to imagine for a minute that you're a skilled archer...*

- *For those of you who don't know, archers shoot bows and arrows at targets for money- that would be my job in another life!*
 - *I pretend this is me in my backyard every time I shoot my bow...*
- *The goal of an archer is to shoot an arrow at a target for points...*

- *The target is 10 rings and five colors... 10 is the bull's eye, and then it drops by a point each ring out...*
- *Now, there's 2 ways this goes down... There's a **recurve** division and a **compound** division...*
 - *Explain...*
- *Here's the thing about either bow, neither one can be held back long... After a little bit, it gets hard, and you have to either shoot or let down...*
- *So you want to find the target in your site and take the shot in a timely manner otherwise, it will impact the shot placement...*

But what if you, the skilled archer that you are, go to your tournament, take the line to shoot, draw back, and look through his sights, and there's no target?

- *And you look around, and you're like, what's going on?*
- *No one moves, no one says anything, it's just you with your bow draw at no target...*
 - *You find yourself confused...*
 - *You think, what's the purpose of me being here? This is pointless!*
 - *And all of the time you put in, all the practice it took to get her seems to amount to nothing as you stand with your bow drawn in confusion... With your arms starting to shake at this point...*

I think this is a lot of time how we can feel when it comes to Christianity...

- *We have the tools, we know how to use them...*
- *We've labored in our efforts to refine our use of them...*
- *Only to find that we're not really sure of the purpose...*
- *And it's like we're standing there with our bow drawn, not really sure of the purpose behind it all...*

At the end of the day, you can have all of the tools and know how to use them, but if you don't understand the clear purpose, your time, effort, and energy can feel pointless...

All of the labor you put into the Christian life can feel pointless if we don't understand God's purpose behind it all...

So here's the question, in everything that we've talked about so far, as good as it is, what is God's purpose for it all?? What Is His intention?!?

Ephesians 1:20-23

We're going to be picking up in **verse 19** so that we can see the flow of what Paul's about to say next... Remember, Paul was praying...

He says:

Verse 19 *That you may know what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.*

Verse 20: Paul says ²⁰ He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—

So Paul's praying that we would *experience* the **immeasurable greatness of God's power toward us**...

In **verse 20**, Paul shows us **HOW**...

The way that we experience the **immeasurable greatness of God's power toward us** is through the resurrection of Jesus...

- *The resurrection is God's power toward us... That Paul's talking about in **verse 19**... That happened by the mighty working of God's strength...*

And here's the point that Paul's making... *You ready for this?!?*

The same power it took to raise Jesus from the dead is the same power it took to save you...

- I want you to think about that for just a second...

This shows just how dead you were...

- Not just kind of bad, didn't just need to be cleaned up
- You needed to be resurrected!

Eph. 2:1: *You were dead in your trespasses and sins...*

- There's no such thing as kinda dead...
- We were dead in our sin...

Meaning: we are spiritually dead...

- There's something wrong at the core of who we are...
- **Jeremiah 17:9:** *the heart is deceitful above all else...*
- *It's because our hearts are spiritually dead that we live a life of sin..*
 - We do what we want to do when we want to do it...
 - We don't submit to the God that made us...
 - We don't live a life of worship and surrender...

*See, what we **do** is an overflow of what's at the core of who we are!*

- *Spiritually we're born defective... We have a disposition toward sin...*
- And there's nothing we could do to change that...

There's no amount of good that we can do to make up for the bad...

Illustration: Heart disease... I have symptoms...

- My heart disease isn't cured by treating the symptoms...
- It's cured by getting a heart transplant...
- ITSW: Good works are just an attempt to address the symptoms of a much bigger problem...
 - We need a new heart...

We are spiritually dead, and a dead person can't save themselves...

- We need a life giver...

Eph. 2:4: *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵ made us alive **with Christ** even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!*

The way we are brought to life is through Christ...

GOSPEL

All done through the power of God!

Outside of Heaven, the power of God in its highest density is found inside the gospel. the Bible twice describes the gospel as “the power of God.”¹ Such a description indicates that the gospel is not only powerful but is the ultimate entity in which God's power resides and does its greatest work. How great is the Salvation that it can accomplish in my life?!?²

Paul wants us to know what it took to save us so that we would see the power that we have access to!

Because if God brought life out of death with Jesus, then he can bring life and healing back to the mess you've made of your heart and your life.³

Which leads us to the second thing that we need to see here from Paul's connection to the **resurrection**...

The same power that raised Jesus and saved you is also at work in you!

Illustration: GG... From death to life... From rebel to righteous...

The resurrection is the fullness of the power of God that's been exercised toward us!

- *You receive this through belief...*
 - *Nothing here is about anything you do, it's all about what you receive through faith...*

¹ Rom 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18

² A Gospel Primer for Christians, Milton Vincent

³ JD Greear, Love Incorruptible. *Open Our Eyes*.

And once you believe and receive... You know what comes next?!?

Baptism... Baptism is the greatest picture of the resurrection that God's given us...

- *An outward expression of an inward reality... **NEW LIFE!***

Appeal for Baptism...

I know some of you have questions:

Do I really have to do this??

- Jesus does it (**John 1**), Jesus commands it (**Matthew 28:18-20**)... The Church practiced it... (**Acts 2:37-40**)

It really matters because what it points to... It points to the power of God... And the new life you've received through Christ...

- It's a mark of surrender...
- It's a step of obedience...

Now, some of you have been a believer for a long time but have never followed through with this act of obedience...

- The question is, will you be faithful to make this deceleration... Are you willing to make known who you are in Christ so that others can experience Christ?
- Don't let the desire for others to think highly of you get in the way.
- Don't be selfish with your salvation... That's God's story that he's written, don't hide it...

I was baptized as a baby and don't want to insult my parents...

- Answer this...

I have questions. Not sure if I'm ready. Great! All we want to do is start a conversation and help you get them an answer...

- The card in your seat back... *Name, email, phone number, check- I want to be baptized...*

- We will follow up!

Verse 21:

[Jesus has been seated at the right hand of God 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.

Jesus is over all- there's nothing and no one that can compete with Him... He's above:

- *Every ruler and authority:* Governance on earth...
- *Power and dominion:* Supernatural power...
- *Every title or name:* Any other god or name that's conjured up or declared...

This is not temporary... It's forever...

This is the supremacy of Christ...

- The one you've been saved by and saved to...
- You are hidden in Christ...

Reframes Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." ¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." [Reference verse]

The confidence this power should instill in us... All the authority of Jesus has been given to us!!!

- *Why for what?!? What's the purpose, what's God's intention for giving us this sort of power?!?!

 - **To make disciples...***

Do we do this solo? How does all this fit together...

That leads us to verse 22:

²² And he subjected everything under his feet 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.

Everything's been subjected under the feet of Jesus...

- Jesus has been appointed as head over everything **FOR THE CHURCH!**

God's intention is to redeem and restore all that is broken, and it starts through Christ leading to the establishment of the church...

- **The body and Bride of Christ that He will return for rising the church up to be seated with Christ- (EPH. 2:6) -**

And the **Supremacy of Jesus**- and His role as *head of the church* means that the church cannot and will not fail...

Christ as the head of the church...

- Human body- head- Christ- Body us...
- The church makes up the body of Christ...
- The body puts into action the direction of the head... It's the acting parts of the head...

Here's what you have to understand: **the church is the focal point, the apex, of everything God is doing in the world.**

The problem is we don't live like that's true...

- *Jesus died and rose for the church. You should be deeply devoted to it.*
- *And if He gave it gladly, not just for other people's sins, but yours!*
- *If Jesus invested his blood into the church, you should invest the best of your time, energy and resources.*

- *And God is ready to move heaven and earth, Paul says--literally to pour out the power of resurrection--in order to complete the mission of the church in the world.* ⁴

Appeal to the local church...

- Presence, involvement...
- Commitment...
- Cooperation...

ServeLink

Acts 2 flywheel

- Gather, groups, give, go...

Move into Gospel appeal...

Conclusion [VAMP]

Echo call for baptism and salvation...

Pray

⁴ JD Greear, Love Incorruptible. *Open Our Eyes*.