

Ephesians | Peace to You

Ephesians 1:15-23

Pastor Taylor Terzek

The Biblical Portrait of Peace: the result of things being gathered up to their rightful end and purpose.

Peace is the harmony of our reality and God's design.

Ephesians 1:15-19

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

The Christian life requires a renewed perspective or a heavenly vision.

Paul prays for three things that they would know:

1. The hope of their calling.
2. The wealth of their inheritance.
3. The mighty power of God.

Praying the Bible, By Donald S. Whitney

Ephesians 1:20-23

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 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.

God has triumphed in Christ over the powers.

These are two of the main and interrelated themes of Ephesians:

1. the triumph of God in Christ and
2. the resulting good news of peace

Ephesians 6:12

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

Ephesians 2:1-2

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 2 in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.

The world is also corrupted by social, subtle, and invisible powers.

The chaos of the world is the result of personal failures and the influence of the powers.

Jesus not only solves the perplexing issue of the human heart. He is also a political figure who deals with the powers.

Nero did not throw Christians to the lions because they confessed the "Jesus is Lord of my heart." It was rather because they confessed that "Jesus is Lord of all," meaning that Jesus was Lord even over the realm Caesar claimed as his domain of absolute authority.

– Michael Bird, *Introducing Paul*, pg. 88

Jesus' rule and reign confronts the powers of this world, and that includes us.

"The mention of two ages here, this one and the age to come, points to the fact that although Christ's rule over all things is already determined and established, it has yet to be consummated."

– Stephen E. Fowl, *Ephesians*, pg. 62

Ephesians 1:22-23

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.

Indeed the church is a necessary part of God's redemptive plan, which is to make all creation new. The church, as the body of Christ (who is its head), is an instrument through which God works to restore his creation, until the final event when God will establish the new heavens and new earth, when Christ hands over the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor 15:28).

– Lynn H. Cohick, *Ephesians*, Kindle 264

Even when Jesus does not look like he rules the universe, remember two things:

1. Christ's rule has established a new age but it is somehow not completed.
2. Christ's rule is to be worked out through his church.

How are we as a community bringing God's Kingdom to earth?