

“HIS POWER TO US-WARD”

Have you ever given serious consideration to the words of Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23? I don't mean, 'Have you read them?' because most of us have probably read the passage many times over. But have you ever meditated on that rather lengthy sentence which has been given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit? Let me select some words out of that passage and elaborate on them:

“For this cause I also....cease not to give thanks...and make mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe.”

I know I left out some words, not to hide the truth, but to draw attention to this statement “exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe.” What power are you talking about Paul? Answer: That which is “according to the working of his might...which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand.” I wonder if we have realized the truth of that passage. There is power available to us. It is greater than the electricity generated by the water that flows over Niagara Falls. It surpasses the power of man-made explosives (including the atom bomb). Now consider this “power” to us-ward.

First, is that same power that raised Jesus from the dead. And what was that power? Very simply, it was the spoken word of God Almighty. That is all it took. Since Jesus is Divine, the power which He demonstrated when He walked upon the earth is the same power. Jesus simply said, “Lazarus, come forth,” and it was so. No side show; no smoke and mirrors; no external power source; no waiving of the hands; no chemical drugs applied; simply the spoken word. So it is with God. He simply spoke, and it was so.

Second, that same power is available to us today. “You mean to tell me preacher, that God speaks today?”

ABSOLUTELY! Listen to the writer of Hebrews: “God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son” (Heb. 1:1-2). Paul, through inspiration, informs us that the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16-17). Wisdom and understanding come from that same source. You are not going to get some “vision in the night,” nor will you hear some “small still voice.” God calls us through the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14), and He instructs us, leads us, guides us, strengthens us, and builds us up through that word, and that word alone. Paul said the Gospel, the word of God, is THE power. Not “a” power, or “some” power, but “the power.” Hence, all that I need to attain unto salvation, live the godly live in Christ, and ultimately win the crown of eternal life is in that little volume of 66 books that most of us possess. Every single word, sentence, chapter, and book is dynamite (that is actually the word translated “power” - the word ‘dunamos’) available to every single man, woman, and child, to attain unto a godly and profitable life. Unfortunately, too many neglect that power, never reading it or studying it. Others read it only occasionally. Only those who read and study it regularly and consistently can ever hope to access that power that will enlighten our hearts unto salvation. As one has pointed out, the Bible....

*Gives light to those in darkness, And help to those in need;
Gives comfort to those in sorrow, And blessing to those who heed.
It is the Christian's compass, His staff, his sword, and guide;
And from all foes along his path, Here he may safely hide.
O! Soul awake, and on it stand, Give heed to each command;
That I may have an entrance in, To that celestial land.*

Tom Wacaster from Tom's Pen (e-mail)

CAN WE KNOW WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO HEAVEN?

When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he expressed great confidence in his eternal salvation: “I know him whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim.

1:12). Again, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day” (2 Tim 4:7). John said, “I have written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). And yet, in spite of so many passages that speak positively of our “blessed assurance,” there are a great number of our brethren who doubt their salvation! That doubt is reflected in a gloomy disposition of despair and despondency characteristic of a world in darkness. One sister in Oklahoma used to say, “Too many of my brethren act as if they were baptized in vinegar.” One of the most beautiful passages in all the Bible is 1 John 1:7 - “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” There are two important truths that emerge from this passage. **First**, while walking “in the light” we are still going to sin. All too often we demand of ourselves that which we are not capable of giving, namely sinless perfection. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1:8). **Second**, we have the cleansing blood of our Lord at our constant disposal. Like an ever flowing fountain, limitless in its resources, and powerful in its efficacy, our Lord's blood will wash away every single sin and remove the guilt associated with it. No wonder John could, in this same letter, write of our assurance of salvation (5:13). It was once said, “A joyless saint will never win a joyful sinner to Christ.” If your lack of assurance has robbed you of the joy of Christian living, how can you ever expect to convert someone who, though living in error, has greater confidence of his salvation than do you? No wonder Paul told us to “rejoice in the Lord always.” And as if to drive the point home, he immediately repeats, “again, I will say, REJOICE!” Beloved, we CAN know that we are saved, and with that assurance comes the great joy of Christian living!

Tom Wacaster from Tom's Pen (e-mail)

ANNIVERSARY

Donald and Jodie Lycan, 04-29.

BIRTHDAY

Leah Thrasher, 04-30.

ILL

Sunday: Robin Brown (AM); Millie Robertson and Janice Carter (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson, Wilba Hopkins.

John Carter is scheduled for ear surgery on April 29 at St. Luke's. Glennis Foust was admitted to Olathe Medical Center last week for heart problems and was dismissed to The Sweet Life of Rosehill facility on April 24.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Debra Gragg was away last weekend. The Scotts visited relatives in Clinton, MO last weekend. Chris Edwards was in Chicago last week. The Brown family is in Texas for the weekend.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY SINGING

All men who can lead songs are encouraged to lead a few songs at our Wednesday PM services on April 30.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, May 4, following our AM worship. Plan now to come and enjoy the good food and good company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 36; Wednesday PM, NA.

Those To Serve

April 27, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Steve Brown
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 30th

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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