

**Sermon Notes: *Jesus Christ Over All for Us (Ephesians 1:19-23).***

**Intro:** God's power is sufficient for us and Paul piles up words here to convince us of it. He speaks not only about God's power but also of "the working of his great might." He prays that we may know not only its greatness but its "immeasurable greatness." How may we "know" such power is guaranteed to us who believe? By the public demonstration of it given us in the saving work of Christ. In these verses, Paul refers to three successive public events: *first* God raised Christ from the dead; *second* God exalted Christ with all authority far above all competitors; *third* God seated Christ as head over all things for the church. Because Christ has been raised, exalted, and seated to reign for me, God's immeasurable power toward me is guaranteed! How reassuring!

**#1: God has guaranteed his power to us through Christ our *risen Savior*.** Jesus had predicted his resurrection from the dead after the leaders of the people had arrested and crucified him (Mk 10:33-34). It seemed impossible! The universal record of human history proved that men live and then they die. But God did raise Jesus from the dead just as it was prophesied he would. And his resurrection was no mere private event witnessed by a few but a great public event witnessed by many (1 Cor 15:3-8). What does this grand display of God's power guarantee? I have been reconciled to God. Christ's resurrection from dead after he died for sins, is God's proof that he accepted Christ's sacrifice as a perfect payment for all the sins of everyone who believes (Rom 4:25; Col 2:13) no matter how heinous those sins may be! Receive God's power by faith as an inheritance guaranteed to you by Christ's death and resurrection. I have been raised with Christ. Sometimes we think of Christ's resurrection only as the forerunner of our own when Christ returns. It is certainly that but also more. It is the guarantee of our present spiritual resurrection to new life with Christ (cf. Eph. 2:4ff.; Col. 2:12; Rom 6:1-11). Because I am joined to my risen Savior and he is joined to me I may be assured that God will complete the work he has begun in me and that he will work in me to will and work for his good pleasure (Phil 1:6; 2:13). Already we know the great transforming power of Christ's resurrection! We look at the history of Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection and see our own spiritual biography in him! How reassuring is this knowledge that Christ's resurrection is the public guarantee that I have been reconciled to God by Christ's blood and raised to new life by Christ's Spirit! All of us have clay feet, a spiritual Achilles heel, particular weaknesses, and besetting sins (pride, covetousness, envy, anxiety, anger, wrath, lust). When we squarely face their power and our weakness we may ask despairingly "What can I do?" Our most basic need at such times is first not to do but to acknowledge what God has done. He has made us a new creation through a faith union with our risen Savior. Empowered by the Spirit through faith in God's word and promises, not by feelings, I must persevere in obedience. It is my God ordained destiny to.

**#2: God has guaranteed his power to us through Christ our *exalted King*.** God's immeasurably great power was publicly demonstrated not only by Christ's triumphant resurrection from the dead but also by his glorious ascension into heaven. Paul says he "was seated at his right..." Jesus foretold not only his resurrection but also his ascension (cf. Jn 6:62 etc.) and Luke's gospel and book of Acts record how after he had ministered to individuals for forty days following his resurrection, Jesus ascended from the Mt. of Olives before the awestruck eyes of his disciples into the glory cloud of God's presence (Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:6-11). Kings place someone at their right hand to grant honor and show participation in their rule. This

is the highest place that heaven can afford and such a place is granted to Christ. It was the fulfillment of Ps. 110:1 which the NT writers refer to, cite, or allude to some thirty different times as proof of Jesus' divinity and authority. God has made all rulers and authorities, powers and lords, subject to our King. How is God's power guaranteed by Christ's exaltation?

Assurance of Christ's personal ascendancy. The Lord who ruled the wind and waves during his earthly ministry will govern and overrule all the lesser powers which threaten us. Assurance of Christ's personal availability. By the Spirit he has now poured out he is powerfully and personally present to help us in our time of need (Heb 4:16; 7:25)

**#3: God has guaranteed his power to us through Christ our *living Head*.** Verses 22-23 say not only that Christ is head over all but that he has been given as head over all for the blessing of the church! Two references to the church emphasize how intimate and full of God's love and life, is the union between Christ and his people. The church is the body of Christ. Nothing could more emphasize the intimate inseparable union we have with Christ. The church is the fullness of Christ. The former picture was of Christ's intimacy with his people here is Christ animating his people with his Spirit, life, gifts, and graces! May God open our eyes to see how, connected to our living Head, we may be filled with God's power by faith in his word and to his glory!