

Strengths Theology - 03

God is Our Place

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God Is Our Place:

Writing sermons is a difficult task when the enterprise is taken on by any human. One might think that **sagacity** would be a preachers greatest ally but I can tell you from decades of experience it is the Holy Spirit who is our greatest ally. Literally being in relationship with the Holy Spirit, and realizing that when I write a sermon the place that I go is to my God. This morning we want to understand that God is the place we can go for all of life's needs, wants, and requirements.

We have stated that our mission statement is...

Investing In Eternity

We use the acronym **A-C-T-S** to explain our mission statement. **A-C-T-S** stands for four words: **A**cquire – **C**ontinue – **T**ake – **S**hare.

The first word **Acquire** explains that we are to acquire the investment already made for us through Jesus Christ. It means that we are to pursue personal Salvation in all of its aspects, through the blood of Christ. This is the necessary starting point in accomplishing our mission. We cannot participate in accomplishing the mission of an organization we are not engaged in. It all starts with the individual, it starts with me, and it starts with you. Our text is found in...

Ephesians 1:18-23 (NASB)

[18] *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of **His calling**, what are the riches of the glory of **His inheritance** in the saints, [19] and what is the surpassing greatness of **His power** toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of **His might** [20] which He brought about **in Christ**, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And He put all things in subjection under **His feet**, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, [23] which is His body, **the fullness of Him** who fills all in all.

This is one of the most powerful and revealing passages in the New Testament. We live in a world where power is everything. Power is seen in many ways. There is the power of influence, wealth, might, numbers, obstinacy, terrorism, technology... Even the power of love is talked about today, but few people realize how sweeping the power of love can be. Like the shockwave of destruction that radiated out from the atomic bomb of Hiroshima, love is a force that will one day sweep across humanity in a finale that will completely destroy evil and last throughout eternity. It started when Jesus Christ came to this earth to give his life for the sins of mankind. Its power is

seen in the love God the Father had when He brought Jesus out of the grave and then lifted him into the realm of the heavens and placed Him at the right hand of the throne that stands above all thrones. This love is seen in the millions of changed lives who have surrendered to its revelation and influence. Loves final unleashing will come at the return of Christ when the graves of history will be emptied and those who choose too, will go with their King to receive their reward. This is fullness, completion, satisfaction. This passage of Scripture shows this power of Almighty God which is evident in the words and phrases found therein.

The place of power for the Christian is found in God's actions and presence in our daily lives. God is our place. He is where we go for the power we need to respond properly to His revelation in our daily lives.

- It is His power at work in His children.
- This power is only available in Christ.
- It is the power that brings one back from the dead both physically and spiritually.
- It is the power that has its authority rooted in the words of Almighty God as given to us in the Holy Scriptures.
- It is the power that will one day win over everything else and bring all to bow at the feet of Jesus Christ.
- It is the power that represents all the fullness of God in Christ Jesus.
- It is the power that brings us out of the power of self and sin and into the presence of God. God is our place, He is where we go.

As Paul continues his letter in chapter 2, he makes this power of Almighty God personal to the individual believer. He shows us that this power is available for you and I, today. This is a great introduction to our communion service as it shows us the journey from the death of sin to the new life of living in Christ. He is our place. Notice how many time Paul refers to being *in Christ, with Christ*, and the phrase *with Him*. In fact Paul used this term in the verses of our text which we read earlier.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NASB) *Made Alive in Christ*

[1] And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, [2] in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. [3] Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. [4] But God, being rich in mercy, **because of His great love** with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together **with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), [6] and **raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ** Jesus, [7] so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us **in Christ** Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that

not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

We are made alive in Christ when we participate in His death by kneeling at the foot of the cross. God is our place. This is how we invest in eternity; we acquire the investment made for us by the blood of Christ. This morning we come to take communion together. The only requirement that Scripture places on us for taking communion is that we be in a right relationship with Christ. It does not mean that we perform perfectly. In fact coming to the foot of the cross for communion is a great time to ask for forgiveness and help as we endeavor to walk in the footsteps of Christ. If you would like to come to the foot of the cross and take communion this morning please come to the altar at this time.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Kneeling at the foot of the cross

Matthew 26:26-29 (NASB)

[26] While they were eating, Jesus took *some* bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." [27] And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; [28] for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. [29] "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

As you give out the elements to each individual say these words: **"Symbols of the Body and Blood of Christ, take them, remembering that He died for you on the cross."**

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CWS-NT - Complete Word Study of the New Testament.

CWS-OT - Complete Word Study of the Old Testament.

- Both the **CWS-NT** and the **CWS-OT** are parts of the AMG Complete Word Study Dictionary - Based on the lexicon of Edward Robinson (as revised by Alexander Negris and John Duncan), with constant reference to and citations from the works of John Parkhurst and Hermann Cremer.