

GOD'S WORK AMONG THE GENTILES | EPHESIANS 1:13-23

- Verses 13-14 included on Session 4
- Verse 15-18 included on Session 5
- Verse 19 –
 - Paul adds a third thing to his detail concerning his prayer for **the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him** (v. 17).
 - He wants the gentile believers to know **the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe**.
 - While the **us-ward** could be all-inclusive, it makes more sense to see it as it has been throughout the letter, the transition of *you* and *us* being a contrast between *Gentile believer* and *Jewish believer*.
 - This is especially true since he has used the second person in vv. 17-18 and now suddenly switches to the first person.
 - If he meant *us* all the way through, why didn't he use *us* all the way through?
 - In simplifying the sentence, it becomes even more clear, as Paul prays **that ye may know** (v. 18)... **what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward**.
 - Note that he doesn't say, "that we may know," using a consistent first person, but moves from "you" to "us."
 - Theologically, this fits perfectly with Paul's prayer that the Gentile believers would now **the glory of his inheritance in the saints**, but especially the **exceeding greatness** toward the *believing saints*.
 - Either the **greatness of his power** is **according to the working of his mighty power** (a somewhat redundant statement, but possible), or Paul is praying **that ye may know** (v. 18) **by the working of his mighty power**, thus this last phrase being more inclusive. Both grammatically and logically it seems more plausible that Paul is praying that his entire prayer would be answer in God's **mighty power**.
- Verse 20 - The **mighty power** of God was **wrought in Christ**.
 - The word **wrought** is the past tense of *work* (the formula still used in words like *catch*, *bring*, and *teach*), thus **wrought** is "worked," and is based on the Greek word ἐνεργέω [energeo], thus has the implication of the exertion of energy.
 - God's power was *worked* in Christ at the resurrection, and then displayed at the ascension.
- Verse 21 –
 - This verse describes the current location and status of Jesus Christ.

- He is **far above** every ἀρχή [arche] (ruler) and ἐξουσία [exousia] (power of authority) and δύναμις [dunamis] (power of might) and κυριότης [kuriotes] (lordship / domain) and **every name that is named** in all αἰών [aion] (ages).
- Therefore, though Jesus is not on the throne of David (but currently at God's **right hand** (v. 20)), He is nonetheless the all-powerful *coming* King.
- Verse 22 –
 - This does not testify that the Kingdom has begun. Notice that the church sees this not in reality, but in spirituality (v. 18). Note Hebrews 2:8 and 1 Corinthians 15:23-25.
 - This simply expresses what Christ expressed in Mt. 28:18 "all authority has been given to me."
 - The last phrase should read, *and gave him, the head over all, to the church* (that is, remove the translator's insertions).
- Verse 23 - This is a powerful word about the church, described as **his body** and His **fullness**.
 - Note that this either refers to the local church or the local church is incomplete in itself (and thus should not be "independent").
 - The requirements for "a church" must be the requirements for "the church."
 - "A church" has ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), but the so-called Universal Church 1) cannot determine what the meaning of these ordinance are, and 2) limits these ordinances to the local church.
 - "A church" has Biblical leadership (Elders / Deacons), but "the church" would have no agreement as to its leadership.
 - If it doesn't have the elements of a church, it is not "church."

COMPARING GOD'S WORK	
God's Work among the Jews	God's work among the Gentiles
Every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies – v. 3	Having believed, were sealed with the Spirit – v. 13
Chosen...to be holy – v. 4	Can receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God – v. 17
Predestined to adoption as sons – v. 5	Enjoys "the hope of his calling" – v. 18
Made accepted in Jesus – v. 6	Can rejoice in the riches of God's future inheritance – v. 18
Promised redemption in His blood – v. 7	
Given abundance of wisdom and prudence – v. 8	
Given the mystery of the future "fullness of times" – vv. 10-11	
Given an inheritance –v. 11	
Were the first to trust Christ – v. 12	
Enjoys the "exceeding greatness of His power" (v. 19)	