

Theme: The ultimate display of God's power is the resurrection of Christ, Who has conquered death and rules over all to fulfill God's purposes for us.

I. Contrast of Good Friday & Easter Sunday

- A. Life, the world, are full of rhythm's - ups and downs
- B. Church calendar walks us through this
- C. Good Friday - the depths of sorrow and pain - Christ died because of me
- D. Easter - the height of joy - Christ is Risen - for me!
- E. Why should Easter be a day of celebration?

II. The Mighty Power of God

- A. Paul is reflecting on the great power of God
That **power** is like the working of his mighty **strength**,²⁰ which he **exerted** in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all **rule** and **authority**, **power** and **dominion**, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:19–21
 - 1. The subject here is clearly 'power'
 - 2. Also many power words - strength; exerted/worked; rule, authority, power, dominion
 - 3. A passage packed with words about 'power'
- B. It is critical that we understand the mighty power of God
 - 1. Our culture tends to relegate God to the margins
 - 2. Most still believe in God - but He has no real might
 - 3. Nature runs it own course - maybe technology can

alter it - but God?

- C. The solution - we must be enlightened to God's power
I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and **his incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, Ephesians 1:18–19
 - 1. Paul is praying for us to be enlightened
 - 2. We need for God to show us His mighty power
 - 3. Don't just hang in limbo - ask God to help you see His mighty power

III. God's Power In the Risen Conqueror!

- A. God's power is seen in the resurrection of Christ
That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ **which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, Ephesians 1:19–20
 - 1. God's power is seen in the resurrection
 - 2. God exerted His power - made a display of it
 - 3. The resurrection is central because it shows God's power over death
- B. God's power is seen in the ascension of Christ
That power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ **which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms**, Ephesians 1:19–20
 - 1. Paul here joins Christ's ascension to heaven with

His resurrection

2. Ascended - He is no longer subject to death!
3. Ascended - He sits in the highest place, above all things

C. God's power is seen in Christ rule over all things

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:19–21

1. Christ is seated FAR ABOVE all rulers
2. All these terms point to various rulers - human and spirit
3. These were the things people thought controlled things - much like we think of nature & technology
4. Paul says Christ is FAR ABOVE all of these - He rules!
5. This rule is now - and in the age to come - no end to this rule!

D. Christ is seen as the Risen Conqueror

1. He has vanquished death - Risen Conqueror
2. He has conquered evil rulers - Risen Conqueror
3. He rules over all now and forever - Risen Conqueror!

IV. Risen - To Fulfill God's Purposes for Us

A. Christ the Risen Conqueror as the God-MAN

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22–23

1. An allusion to Psalm 8:6 - all things placed under humans
2. We have messed this whole thing up
 - a. We are at war with creation rather than loving rule
 - b. We are willingly under dominion of Satan and demonic forces instead of ruling them
 - c. We are not fulfilling the purpose for which we were made
3. But in the resurrection Jesus has put this back on course
4. The Son of Man now rules all things under God - as we were created to do

B. Christ rules for the good of His people

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22–23

1. Christ is raised and ruling for us!
2. We do not always understand - but God is working for our good
3. The same mighty power that raised Christ dwells in us
4. We need not fear human rulers, demonic powers, present or future - Christ is the Risen Conqueror!

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see our need for a Risen Conqueror?

1. Friends, death is the ultimate issue
2. There is no app for that!
3. Technology can not solve death!
4. This begins with spiritual death (Ephesians 2)
5. Christ's life, death and resurrection can raise us to life spiritually
6. But it includes physical death as well
7. Christ's life, death and resurrection can raise us to life physically after we die
8. I urge you - receive the Risen Conqueror!
9. Hail the victorious conqueror today!

B. Hailing the Risen Conqueror today

1. If you are a believer - this is cause for ultimate joy
2. No matter what may come - Christ has overcome!
3. World, Satan, death do not have the final word - He does!
4. Because Christ is Risen - we cannot die! We will be raised!
5. His victory is our victory!
6. So we sing Hail the Day when Christ arose!

Risen Conqueror

Ephesians 1:19-23

April 20, 2014

Hail the Day OR Children's Song and Skit

Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:19–23