

Paul’s words in this passage are among the most soaring, hope-filled sentences in all of Scripture. They lift our eyes upward—far above the anxieties of our week, far above the headlines, far above the limits of our own strength—and they place our gaze firmly on the risen and ascended Christ. Paul wants the church to *see* something. Not with physical eyes, but with what he calls “the eyes of your hearts enlightened.” He wants us to see reality as it truly is: Jesus Christ is King, and He rules over all things for the sake of His Church. That truth is not abstract. It is comfort. It is oxygen. It is the anchor that keeps us steady when everything else feels unsteady.

Paul begins by thanking God for the faith and love he sees in the Ephesian believers. But then he prays for something deeper: that they would *know*—really know—the hope to which God has called them, rooted in the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. In Holy Scripture, hope is never grounded in our progress or our performance. It is grounded in God’s promises, sealed in Christ, delivered through Word and Sacrament.

Paul prays that we would know the hope of God’s calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe. Hope. Inheritance. Power. These are not things we work up inside ourselves. They are gifts God reveals to us through His Word.

Paul doesn’t leave “power” as a vague spiritual idea. He defines it: It is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Think about that. The power that shattered the grave, the power that reversed death itself, the power that pulled the crucified Christ out of the tomb and clothed Him in resurrection glory—that is the power God directs toward you. Not against you. Not apart from you. Toward you. This is entirely His work. If the power that saves us is resurrection power, then it cannot come from us. It must come from God. And it does.

But Paul goes further. He says God not only raised Jesus—He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. This is the language of the Ascension.

Too often we treat the Ascension as if Jesus simply “went away.” But Scripture never speaks of it like that. The Ascension is not Jesus distancing Himself from His people. It is Jesus taking His throne for the sake of His people. When a king ascends the throne, he is not becoming absent—he is becoming sovereign. The right hand of God is not a location in the sky. It is the position of authority over all things.

Christ’s Ascension means: He reigns over every earthly power. He reigns over every spiritual power. He reigns over every force that frightens you. He reigns over death itself. And Paul says something astonishing: God placed all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things *to the Church*. Christ’s kingship is a gift to His people. His rule is for your good. His authority is exercised for your salvation. His power is directed toward your life.

Now, let's be honest. We don't always feel like Christ is ruling all things. We see chaos, conflict, suffering, and uncertainty. We see our own weaknesses and failures. We see the world's brokenness. But Paul is not asking you to trust what you see. He is asking you to trust what God has revealed.

Jesus reigns even when the world looks ungoverned. Jesus reigns even when your life feels fragile. Jesus reigns even when evil seems loud. Jesus reigns even when you feel small.

Martin Luther once said that "if we could see what Christ is doing at the right hand of God, we would die of joy." But we walk by faith, not by sight. And faith clings to the promise that Christ's rule is not theoretical—it is active, present, and personal.

Do you understand what it means to say Jesus reigns and rules? It means Your prayers are heard by a King who governs all things. Your suffering is held by a King who conquered death. Your future is secured by a King who cannot be dethroned. Your citizenship in heaven is guaranteed by a King who intercedes for you. And this King is not distant. He is present in His Word and at His Table in His Church. The ascended Christ is the *accessible* Christ, the Christ who fills all things, the Christ who promises, "I am with you always."

Paul concludes with a breathtaking image: the Church is Christ's body, "the fullness of Him who fills all in all." This means the ascended Christ is not absent from the world—He is present through His people. He fills His Church with His Spirit, His gifts, His forgiveness, His life. And then He sends His Church into the world as His hands and feet. As ambassadors.

You are not alone. You are not powerless. You are not forgotten. You belong to the body of the One who reigns over all things.

So what does Paul want for you today? He wants the eyes of your heart to be opened—to see the hope, the inheritance, and the power that are yours in Christ.

He wants you to know that the Jesus who died for you now reigns for you. He wants you to rest in the comfort that your King is not only mighty—He is merciful. He wants you to trust that nothing in heaven or on earth can overturn the rule of our King. The same power that raised King Jesus from the dead is being wielded at this present moment for ultimate good—for the good of the world---for the good of the Church—and for your personal good. What else is there to say, but "Amen."