

Our All in All
Part I
September 7, 2014
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Before we get started, I would like to wish everyone here this morning a **Happy Grandparents Day**. How many Grandparents do we have here this morning?

Let me challenge you Grandmas and Grandpas today to use your influence and do everything you can to keep your Grandkids in Church; a real Bible preaching, God honoring Church! Today's message will explain why that is so important.

In the past several weeks the Lord has been teaching us about the importance of fellowship with Him and with each other; about His desire for His joy to be fulfilled in us and about our ultimate purpose, which is His glory.

There is one particular invention, one particular creation of God that ties all of this together and is the vehicle by which unworthy sinners like us can be cleansed and empowered and united to the point that we can and actually do bring real and eternal glory to our King.

A while back when I was preaching from John 17, I read Jesus' prayer for us that we might be one, like He and the Father are one. This is the prayer Jesus prayed for us just before he went to the cross to die for our sins:

John 17:11

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

I told you that our Church was the vehicle the Lord provided for us in order to make this possible. Today I will show you this in God's Word.

Our text today is Ephesians, Chapter 1.

Ephesians 1:1-23

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
- 2 Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:
- 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

- 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
- 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
- 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:
- 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
- 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
- 13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
- 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

- 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,
- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,
- 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
- 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,
- 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

If you are enough of a Bible student to know that the Church spoken of in the Bible is a Local Body of Believers - not some universal, invisible figment of a TV preacher's imagination - then you can begin to understand the tremendous central role that our Church has been designed by Jesus to fulfill in our lives.

When you hear me talk about the Church, I am not referring to something world-wide; nor am I speaking of all saved people who are referred to in the Bible as the 'Family of God', not as the Church.

I am either talking about a specific Church, usually this one; or I am speaking of the Church in a generic way. For example, if I preach on 'the family', no one misunderstands 'the family' to all be one big family. I am merely speaking of principles and facts that apply to all families.

This is the way the Bible uses the terminology 'the Church.' Every principle and promise and command the Word of God proclaims regarding 'the Church' applies to this Church and every real Church like her.

Only when we rise to meet the Lord in the air will we all be one big Church; and not all saved people will be part of the Church, even then.

Our Church, Lighthouse Baptist Church, is of priceless value. Our Church, according to God's Word, represents to you and to me the greatest opportunity for eternal riches and glory we will ever have.

I believe my membership here in Lighthouse Baptist Church is at least the 2nd most valuable possession I have here on earth today; the first being my eternal salvation.

When you understand what the Bible says about our Church; you will believe this, too.

That said; look again at those last verses of our text starting with verse 20; it says that:

- 20 ...he (God the Father) raised him (Jesus) from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,
- 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
- 22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,
- 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Herein is essential information about our Church that every member and potential member of this Church needs to understand.

First:

I. Our Church is where Jesus is the head over all things.

A. God the Father has put all things under Jesus' feet.

1. Look at this as it is stated in

1Corinthians 15:22-28

- 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
- 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
- 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.
- 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.
- 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him, it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.
- 28 And **when all things shall be subdued unto him**, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

2. So, are all things made subject to Christ?

B. Indeed the decree has gone forth, but has it been accomplished?

1. The answer is; No, not yet.

2. As of now, it is to the Church **only** that Jesus is truly the practicing Head of all things! ...and gave him *to be the head over all things to the church,*

3. He is not the head of the government, He is not the head of our schools, He is not the head of various corporations; out there in the world for now, Jesus does not call the shots! This Church and others like her are the only places on earth where Jesus is truly in charge; where He truly is the Head.

4. This is why are we commanded in:

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

5. Because the Church is the only place on earth where Jesus is in charge and it's the only place on earth where Jesus gets all the glory!

6. Folks, here at Lighthouse; what Jesus says goes!

7. You may not like it, you may not agree with it; but it's not about you, it's about Jesus!

8. I'm glad you like the music and the praise and the Bible classes and the preaching; but it's not primarily for you, it's for Jesus!

8. Oh, there is a lot of talk out there about Jesus this and Jesus that and God this and God that...but here, we are dead serious about doing everything that we do; every word that we preach; every song that we sing; every ministry in which we are involved...MUST be

according to the Word and will of God and for His glory!

9. Now, I must ask you, are you OK with that...I said; are you OK with that? We love you and we hope you are, but we are committed to it whether you are or not.

II. Our Church is the fullness of Jesus that filleth all in all.

A. What does that mean?

1. **Ephesians 1:22-23...the church, ...Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.**

2. Let's say that I am in love with my wife (actually I am and have been for many years now.)

3. I say to her, "Darling, you fill my life; I think about you all the time; I want everything I do to bless your life; you are my all in all!"

4. That's pretty easy to understand. Even our least romantic men can relate to this.

B. That's what our Church is to every one of us who understand her value.

1. It is where we work and serve our God.

2. It is where we honor God when we bring our tithes and when we bring our offerings.

3. It is where we fellowship with God and with each other.
4. It is where we experience the presence of God.
5. It is where we grow and learn like no other place on Earth.
6. It is where we lift up praises and exaltation to our God.
7. It is our true vocation.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

8. It is for some and should be for all of us, the very center, the very core of our lives around which every facet of our life revolves.

In Conclusion:

There is far too much here to preach it in all one message, so God willing, we will continue with some amazing additional information next week.

As a preview of what is coming:

We are going to learn about our inheritance:

Ephesians 1:11

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

We are going to learn about the riches of His grace.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, **according to the riches of his grace;**

We are going to learn about the exceeding greatness of His power.

Ephesians 1:19 **And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

We will even learn about the riches of our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what **the riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints,

I know that all of you are interested in rewards; you want them now; you will want them even more in the ages to come.

Next week you are going to learn exactly how those rewards can and will be won.

However, none of this is going to matter if you are not saved.

Your inheritance is what you receive from your father.

Since we all start out in sin, Jesus said to the unsaved Pharisees in

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...*

If your father is the Devil your inheritance is eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Jesus died for you so that God can be your father; you can be saved today if you understand who Jesus is and what He accomplished on your behalf; we are here to help you with that.

Jesus has brought us together for a reason:
Ephesians 2:6-7

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: *(That is what we are doing right now).*

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

In the ages to come, 500 years, 1,000 years, 10,000 years from today...what do you think we will be rejoicing about?

The money you made, the buildings I built, the games you won, the buck you shot, the fish you caught, the team you played on... Or do you think it will be about what you did in the Church to bring Jesus glory?