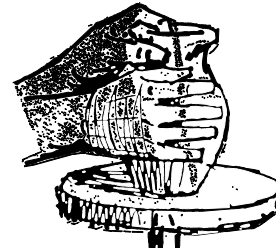


# His Workmanship at Westside

*“For we are His  
workmanship, created in  
Christ Jesus for good works.”  
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

## Paul's First Prayer for the Ephesians, Inheritance, Power, part 2, by Paul Deffinbaugh

Last week we looked at the first of Paul's two prayers in Ephesians. It establishes a standard for prayer which few of our prayers meet. If we take it as a model for our prayers, our prayers would have to be radically transformed. This prayer instructs us concerning the vital link between God's Word and prayer. In the early days of the New Testament church, the apostles determined that their priority was "prayer and the ministry of the word," Acts 6:4. And this prayer identifies three vital elements of faith and doctrine: hope, inheritance, and power. These are truths taught only in the Word of God, truths which are foundational to our daily walk in Christ.

Paul had just summarized the eternal purposes of God for history and the blessings which God has provided for the believer in Christ in Eph 1:3-14. He wrote of the activity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to bless us. He wrote of God's purpose in eternity past, in history, and in eternity future. While vs. 3-14 focus on the purpose of God as it relates to Christ, the church, and His glory, we see that vs. 19-23 focus on the power of God in Christ toward His

church. In the middle of these two great ideas, Paul recorded his prayer for the church—the church in Ephesus and the church as a whole. Thus Paul's prayers for Ephesian church were based upon his understanding of God's purposes for the church and His power directed to the church:

1. the purpose of God for His church.
2. his prayers for the church.
3. the power of God directed toward the church.

As we continue to study this prayer, let us do so with the same prayer which he prayed. Let us ask *the "God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,"* to give to us "a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him," so that "the eyes of our heart may be opened, and we might know what is the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

**The Riches of the Glory of Being God's Inheritance.** Paul had already spoken of our inheritance in Christ in vs. 11 and 14. His emphasis was on the fact of our inheritance in Christ. In the Old Testament, the priests' possession and inheritance

was God Himself, Num 18:20; Deut 10:9; 18:1-2; Josh 13:33; Ezek 44:28; Zech 2:12. As priests, 1 Pet 2:9, and as people of God, our possession (inheritance) is God Himself and heaven, Heb 10:34; Ps 16:5-6; cf. Dan 7:18, 22; Ezek 44:28; Ax 26:18; Eph 5:5; Col 1:12; 3:24; Heb 9:15; 1 Pet 1:4. On the other hand, in Eph 1:18, Paul reversed the emphasis. There, what is in view is Christ's inheritance in us. Those who are in Christ are the people of God, God's own inheritance, heritage. The Israelites were God's inheritance in the Old Testament, Deut 9:26, 29; 32:9; 1 Sam 10:1; 1 Kg 8:51-53; Ps 28:9; 33:12; 68:9; 74:2; 78:62, 71; 79:1; 94:14; 106:5, 40; Is 19:25; 47:6; 63:17; Jer 10:16; 51:19. Is this a big deal? Certainly—and bigger than we can imagine. The glory of which Paul wrote is the honor we now have of belonging to God, of being stamped as His own possession, Tit 2:11-14; 1 Pet 2:9-10. The people of God, His inheritance, are also Christ's inheritance: "For You have heard my vows, O God; You have given me the inheritance of those who fear Your name," Ps 61:5; 2:8. The church is continued on p. 2

**"[I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand..." —Eph 1:17-20**

the glorious bride of Christ, which is now being prepared, and which will someday be presented to Him at the heavenly marriage feast, Rev 19:7-9. What a glorious privilege, to be God's own possession, to belong to Him! **The Greatness of His Power, Directed Toward the Saints.** The third and final truth is to know and experience the great power which God has directed toward His church. The character of God assures us of the goodness of His plan: *"we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose,"* Rm 8:28; cf, Eph 1:5. God's power is what assures us that His plan will be fulfilled, exactly as He has planned it and promised it to us. This power is summed up in Christ, demonstrated in His resurrection from the dead, and directed toward the well-being of His saints. The resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus transformed the disciples from a frightened, discouraged, and defeated band of men to a dynamic, confident force which, in the words of their enemies, turned the world upside down.

The resurrection of our Lord was proof that He was the Messiah, as He claimed, and that death could not hold Him in its grip, see Ax 2:22-32. Beyond this, the ascension of the Lord Jesus to the right hand of the Father brought about His complete authority and the gift of the Holy Spirit, empowering believers and convincing and converting those who heard, believed, and obeyed His gospel, Ax 2:33-38. Most of us probably are content with our belief in the resurrection and as-

cention of our Lord as an historical event. In this belief, we differ from the world. But this is not a sufficient grasp of these events as Paul understood and taught them. There is much more to be gained from these events. The truths of God's power toward us will transform our lives, if we let them. As Paul looked to the Spirit of God to make these truths and their implications known to his readers, let us likewise look to Him to enlighten our hearts, so that we might grow in our grasp of these realities, and thus find our thinking and lives reshaped by them. Paul's prayer was that the Ephesian saints would be enabled by God to grasp the infinite power of God in Christ. This text focuses on God's power in two major categories: (a) God's power over all other powers and authorities, vs. 21-22; and (b) God's power exercised on behalf of the church, vs. 19-20, 23. This paves the way for Paul's teaching in Ephesians 2. He spoke of the Lord's resurrection and ascension in Eph 1, and in chapter 2 he spoke of the believer's resurrection and ascension, in Christ, cf. 1:20 and 2:6. Further, while in Eph 1 Paul wrote of Christ's ascension as resulting in His gaining authority over all other powers, 1:21-22, in Eph 2 he wrote of these authorities as those which once held us captive, 2:1-3. Paul's words at the end of Eph 1 imply that the Christian's assurance of the certainty of purposes and promises of God which constitute the Christian's hope rests upon our recognition of His power to achieve them. The clause *"These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might,"*

in 1:19 suggests that the three elements of the Christian's future hope mentioned in vs. 18-19 are all interdependent. Apart from the supreme power and authority of God in Christ, we have no hope. It is because of His infinite power that we are assured of obtaining the *"hope of His calling"* and the *"riches of the glory of His inheritance."* Indeed, apart from the sovereignty of God, all of the blessings of verses 3-14 would be nullified.

Most of us have had the experience of being promised something and then not receiving it, because of the unwillingness or inability of the one who made the promise. God's infinite power, even over death, assures us that His promises, unlike those made by others, will be fulfilled. He is not only willing, He is ABLE. We, like Abraham before us, can be *"fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform,"* Rm 4:21. Paul's words in Eph 1:18-19 imply that our understanding of the infinite power of God falls short of the wealth of that power. Paul prayed that we might be enabled by God to comprehend the *"surpassing greatness of His power."* Apart from God's revelation, we would not know the greatness of His power. Even with the Bible, our finite minds will never fathom the depths of God's goodness or greatness. The inference of this text and of the whole of Scripture is that we will never, in this life, adequately grasp the vast wealth of God's person and of the blessings which He has provided for us. Further, we will spend all eternity praising Him for these riches, Rm 11:33-36; 1  
*continued on p. 3*



Psalm 133:1



**Fill your candle in 2013**

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”  
—Ephesians 3:19

**Prayer for the Ephesians**, from p. 2 Cor 1:7-10. The power of God is manifested in and through Jesus Christ. All of the blessings which God has purposed and provided for the saints are “in Christ,” see 1:3-14. It is the purpose of God to “*sum up all things in Christ*,” 1:10. So also, God’s power is what He brought about “in Christ,” 1:20. Paul’s words indicate a direct relationship between the infinite power of God, which is manifested in Christ, and Christ’s resurrection and ascension. The power of our Lord is related to His resurrection and ascension in at least two ways: First, the resurrection and ascension of our Lord demonstrate the magnitude of the power of God in Christ. The surpassing greatness of this power is the same power which was evidenced in the resurrection of our Lord from the dead and which was bestowed upon Him at His ascension. Second, the power of God which is in Christ is that power which God bestowed upon Him as a result of His death, resurrection, and ascension, Rm 1:4. While our Lord set aside some of the privileges and prerogatives of His heavenly glory at the incarnation, He gained more than these when the Father raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, Phil 2:5-11; Heb 2:9-10. The power and authority bestowed on Christ by the Father at His ascension

is greater than any and all other powers. The Lord Jesus is greater than all other powers by virtue of the fact that He created them, and by virtue of His resurrection and ascension to power, Col 1:16; 2:13-15. The power of our Lord, bestowed on Him by the Father at the time of His ascension, sets Him above any and all powers. He is greater than any other power, than all other powers, whether powers present or future, heavenly or earthly, vs. 19-21. By virtue of His obedience to the will of the Father, His incarnation, sacrificial death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus was given all power and authority to rule over all creation. At His second coming, every living soul will confess His sovereignty, Phil 2:9-11. Our Lord’s authority and power are not tentative, but certain. Because of this, we can be assured that His purpose and promises will be accomplished.

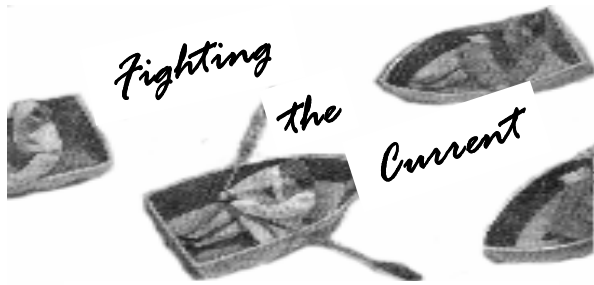
**Ephesians by chapter/anagram:**  
Chosen, Called by God in Christ,  
Who over all, Head of the Church  
Heavenly abode, relationship, life in Him; He is our reconciliation, Having abolished and slain the enmity  
Unraveling and Understanding the Mystery of the gospel (for all men)  
Right platform for unity; Rules; Reasons for offices, Resources for the church; Renewing life and mind  
Christ’s example, Christ’s light; bride  
Help one another—children, masters;  
Help from God—armor

**Rejoice** Danielle Huelsman put on her Lord in baptism recently when she heard the gospel at Bible Camp.  
**Bereaved** Justin Carlson and his family are grieving the death of his grandmother last week.  
**Expecting** Amy Vander Kooi—SOON!

## Discipleship Here At Home

**PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away**  
**Mark Campbell**—will move to Rocky Mtn Brain Injury Svc in CO Springs Mon.  
**Judy Sartin’s** aunt **Vallie Ek**—back in treatment for uterine cancer; **Judy’s** grand son **Tristen Sartin**—recent autism diagnosis  
**Eric Perry**—tennis elbow  
**Rod Green’s** mother, **Shirley**—recovery from broken wrist surgery  
The **Reameses’** daughter and son-in-law, **Sandra** and **Nathan Hampton**, are practicing bigamy. Please pray for all the family, especially the **Hamptons’** 8 kids.  
**Valerie Greenwalt**—tumor surgery Aug  
**Megan Aki** and the girls—now living with the **Szymanskis**  
The **Andrew Tope** family—spiritual and physical needs in unemployment  
**Pat Campbell’s** father, **Delmar Hice**—MRI results Mon re: numbness in fingers  
**Reingrovers’** friend **Charles Hartwigsen**—infection and Myasthenia Gravis diagnosis  
**Wes Nichols**—stage 4 cancer in tongue, lymph nodes, no insurance, young family in Parker. Donate at [nickels4nichols.com](http://nickels4nichols.com)  
**CHRONIC CONDITIONS**  
**Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes**—asthma  
**Pearl Chapman**—leg pains; pancreatitis  
**Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain  
**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy  
**Kirk Johnson**—worsening MS; needs help around his house  
**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;  
**Virginia**, worsening rapid macular degeneration; high BP  
**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung

**Traveling** DeWayne and Ethan Howell will return from Cincinnati Mon. **Gintchins** are out of town, **Reameses** in CO Springs.  
**Job concerns** **Megan Aki, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Linda Szymanski, DeWayne Howell, Frank Savarese, Andrew Tope,** and **Rod Green** are seeking jobs.



## Fighting the Current

### Exposing current thoughts & trends

#### **Cops Surprise Criminals—with Grace**, by Jim Daly

Ryan Willard and Duane Fields, West Virginia police officers, arrived at a Charleston K-Mart last week to look into allegations that a young woman had tried to steal from the store. What they found in the small backroom went beyond the cold, hard facts of the case, however—a young mom with her two small daughters had taken diapers, rash cream, and some clothes for her girls. It turns out the woman is going through a divorce and trying to make do without her husband's help.

The policemen could have simply gone through their work routine—and been right to do so. Instead, though, after fulfilling their duties, the two officers bought the mom the items she had attempted to shoplift, according to the Charleston *Daily Mail*. They said they wanted to help. “She didn't take anything to benefit herself,” said Willard. Fields was inspired to this good deed, in part, out of his desire to “live a good, Christian [sic] life and help people when they need help.”

That young mother certainly needed help. She was probably overwhelmed by the difficulties of her situation. We can't imagine what went through her heart and mind as those officers gave her some practical help—and the hope she desperately needed.

We know there are times for tough love and hard lessons. But there's also a time to extend grace. The wisdom comes in knowing the difference and blending and balancing. For that, we can trust our God to give us discernment. But we also have to be willing, like these two officers, to step outside our daily routine and go out of our way for someone else. How challenging—and beautiful—to go through our days thinking, “How can I bless someone in need?” How blessed to be merciful. See 1 Pet 4:10; 2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 5:7; Lk 3:11; Ps 41:1; Pr 14:21; Jas 2:15-16.

#### **Texting Taboo** by Paula Hendricks

I've noticed a trend in lots of my younger friends. Lots of folks text all the time and *at all the wrong times*. They text when we're hanging out together. They text in church or in a Bible study. Don't get me wrong—it's not that there's something inherently bad about texting, but what are your media habits communicating to those around you? When my friends do this, they might as well say, “This is more important to me than you. You come second.” I'm guilty of communicating the same thing—to others—and to God! I've often hurried my times with Him so that I can get to my computer and check my email. How about you? What do you think your media habits communicate to your family, friends—and ultimately, to God? “Be courteous,” 1 Pet 3:8. “Love is not rude,” 1 Cor 13:5.

## Westside church of Christ

meets at  
13789 W. 8th Avenue  
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(303) 972-0087

#### **Pastors**

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

#### **Preacher**

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309)

### Assembly Schedule

#### **Sunday**

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes      | 9:00 am  |
| Morning assembly   | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm  |

#### **Wednesday**

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

This morning: “Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?” by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon:

**Paul's Prison Epistles Series**  
Ephesians 2, Justin Hambrick

**When texting:** “In humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,” Phil 2:3-4.