

**DAY 67**

## READ

EPHESIANS 1:19B-23

## FOCUS

<sup>19</sup> AND HIS INCOMPARABLY GREAT POWER FOR US WHO BELIEVE. THAT POWER IS THE SAME AS THE MIGHTY STRENGTH <sup>20</sup> HE EXERTED WHEN HE RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD AND SEATED HIM AT HIS RIGHT HAND IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS, <sup>21</sup> FAR ABOVE ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY, POWER AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS INVOKED, NOT ONLY IN THE PRESENT AGE BUT ALSO IN THE ONE TO COME. <sup>22</sup> AND GOD PLACED ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET AND APPOINTED HIM TO BE HEAD OVER EVERYTHING FOR THE CHURCH, <sup>23</sup> WHICH IS HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM WHO FILLS EVERYTHING IN EVERY WAY.

**REFLECTION from PASTOR DOYLE SURRETT**

Hey everybody I hope you are keeping your chin up, focusing on finding the positives and seeing the opportunities. I find that for me the battle begins with keeping my attitude right by investing myself in those things that build up my knowledge of God, grow my faith, and focus my attention on Jesus. The more I think about Him and the less I watch the news, the experts, and the dire world predictions, the better I am and do. If He has allowed us to be here right at this time and endure this crisis, then I have to trust that He knows what He is doing. I have to choose to contemplate God's goodness in ways great and small. For example, I have in recent days looked out the window and thanked God for giving us not only things that sustain our lives like oxygen, but for using things of beauty--like trees--to do so. I have also found myself expressing gratitude to Him for particular personality and character traits of those around me. I have also reviewed the times in my life where I didn't know what was next for me or even where to begin to look. But the most grounding thought that I am trying to meditate on these days is referenced in our passage for today.

A few years ago I heard a country song titled: God is Great, Beer is Good and People are Crazy. I found myself, in order to get a handle on this section of scripture, kind of restating these verses in that format. At the risk of being sacrilegious, it came to me that this passage is reminding us that: God is great, Jesus is in charge, and the Church is truly blessed. Now that the lightning has passed, let's talk about it--the passage not the song (although except for the beer part (I don't drink), there are days when I'm not sure that the song is entirely wrong).

Thinking about this passage in light of our current predicament, I was reminded just how helpful it is to recall that God is great. Not just in the sense that you might say: "what a great guy," but rather in the sense that He is greater, more powerful than anyone, anywhere. The evidence of this is that He has power over death--as we saw when He resurrected Jesus from the dead. God not only raised Him up but He had the power to put Jesus above and in charge of everything. COVID is scary, but God is all powerful. We need not live in fear, because God is greater than any foe, circumstance or internal doubt. We need to know that, claim that, and apply it to our daily lives. *"Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world."* - 1 John 4:4

Jesus is in charge. That means that there is nothing that comes against me that He doesn't know about, that He can't equip me to handle or can't change. He is in charge! So if He is in charge, why am I so prone to worry, so given to doubt, and so angry at those leaders who aren't doing it the way I think it should be done? Because I forget and I begin to think that I am the one in charge. I think this whole crisis has reminded me (actually given me no choice but to admit) that I am definitely not in charge. It seems at times like the only thing I can be in charge of is my attitude--and I even need help with that. I'm so glad Jesus is in charge cause nobody else is, nor could they be.

So how does this help me know that He is aware of my situation? The passage says that He is the head of the Church and that He is it's everything. In other words, if you and I are part of the Church then He will be everything we need. In this time I am finding increasingly, as I try to maintain perspective, a good attitude and yet not be blind to what is happening in the world, that I need a Savior. Not just to save my soul for



## DAILY DEVOTION

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eternity but to save my mind from the doubt, fear and confusion that much of the rest of the world seems to be trying to foment. Jesus is our savior therefore the church (us) is blessed. I pray that you will be blessed this week.

**QUESTIONS**

- ARE YOU REMINDING YOURSELF DAILY THAT GOD IS GREATER?
- ARE YOU MEDITATING ON THE FACT THAT JESUS IS IN CHARGE?
- ARE YOU FEELING BLESSED?