

Wisdom + Work = Worship

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Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 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**, 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.

Intro: We had a lot of hope that the 49ers would win their game against Minnesota. Our hope was so great that we already blocked out the NFC championship game and the Super Bowl on our calendars. We watched the game just assuming that it was all going to work out great. But we nevertheless celebrated at the end.

My friend even commented, “Is it even necessary to for this game to be played?”

We could ask a similar question about doing the WORK of being the church. If our hope in Christ is so certain, if we know Jesus Christ is Lord over everything and it will all work out in the end, then is it really necessary for us to do the work of being the Body of Christ in the world?

Of course the answer is YES. But instead of approaching that work fearfully, or reluctantly, or uncertainly, we can approach it with a sense of joy and purpose and fun!

To live this way, every moment of every day, is to WORSHIP God with our whole selves, and to do so wholeheartedly.

Our text shows how Wisdom + Work = Worship

Wisdom

Wisdom according this text is knowing Jesus more and more fully

- Comes from God's Spirit, not us
- Goal: knowing Jesus better, present-tense
- Result: HOPE in inheritance and in power

+ Work

What is our work? Last week we learned that it is *to be exclusively God's, doing good in a blameless way, making God famous by the quality of our lives and our loves.*

- Enlightened to the fact that resurrection power is for us
- God exerted: Our work is predicated on Christ's work (Notice how the Trinity is at work on our behalf!)

= Worship

In this formula, worship isn't just what we do for an hour on Sunday. Worship is the being part of what God is doing everywhere, all the time!

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- What happens when we submit to Jesus and his rule
- Result: we join his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
- What does this worship look like? TRUST & MATURITY
- If Christ can be trusted with the universe, can he be trusted with you calendar, your checkbook, your future?

What is the work we get to do now, as the Church, and have fun doing it?

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