

HAVING EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT

Christ is the focus of the universe

How wonderful it is that we could be focused and concentrated on the Lord Himself. The Book of Ephesians concentrates everything in one spot. This is the marvelous unveiling of Ephesians. To reveal the way God does things — He concentrates the universe in His Son. The universe is focused. From the divine point of view, God planned the ages with Christ, He made the universe with His Son and through His Son (Heb. 1:2). He planned everything in His Son. So that the Father is absolutely focused in His relationship to everything through His Son.

Colossians 1:16, says “For in Him all things were created, in the heavens and upon the earth ... all things have been created through Him, and unto Him.” He is not only the means through which creation came into being but He is the goal of all creation. He is the unique focus of all creation. John 1:3 makes an awesome statement to this effect, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” The wording seems repetitious, but it stresses the point that He is the focus in relation to every item of creation. So if our life has any other focus apart from Christ, we are completely misaiming. From God’s point of view, Christ is the focus of the universe, and the unique focus of every man.

The Word opens our eyes to see how central Christ is. Not only in a big way but in a small way. He is central in creation and He is central in the details of our daily life. He

is the one spot we can go to and find everything we need. Satan has tried in every devious way to rob us, and take us away from Christ being our focus. But, thank God, the Word always renews us and brings back to our focus. In big things, small things, anything and all things — He’s involved in all. He is the focus of all things.

God puts everything in one spot — Christ

Our mouth drops open as we look at the book of Ephesians to see the simplicity of how God puts everything in one spot. That is, He puts everything in Christ. He is that spot. He gathers up “this” and “that,” and sums it up in Christ. Day by day we just need to be a person that is intimately in tune with Him, fellowshiping with Him, telling Him to live in us. Living Him, telling Him to be Himself in us, telling Him to tear down all the resistance He sees in us, the hardness, just telling Him, “Jesus, You are the One appointed to live and be my life.”

We become a focused person. We are focused when we are happy, and we are focused when we are not happy. We are focused when we do not have any problems, and we are focused when we are loaded down with problems. When the Lord says to “Come unto Him” it means to come *as you are* bringing everything to Him. It does not mean to bring your cleaned-up act to Him. No, it means bring your mess to Him. You can not clean it up. You can not change yourself. You can not generate the motivation to be a certain way. How will you come up with that? So just come

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the way you are and open to the Lord, fellowship with Him, draw from Him, and tell Him that you need Him. And then say, “Lord, live. Live in me” (John 14:19). Put it on Him (1 Pet. 5:7). Jesus says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28). You are not a finished product and perfected when you come. Coming to Jesus means that you come when you are still unfinished, and are still caught in the cross fire of your emotions. Your feelings are ambivalent. You feel divided. You do not understand yourself. You even feel somewhat schizophrenic. In the morning you feel *up*, in the afternoon you feel *down*, and in the evening you feel like a demon. You look at yourself and wonder how you can handle all the inward junk. Bring the junk to Jesus. He is your focus. You are not without a focus. God wants to show you that you can bring everything to one spot — to Jesus.

All the spiritual blessings are in one spot

Ephesians 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with a *few* spiritual blessings.” No, He does not say a few, does He? He says, “With *every* spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ.” All the spiritual blessings are in one spot. They are in Christ. Then as you read on in Ephesians 1, Paul begins to enumerate the spiritual blessings. In verse 4, he says, “Even as He chose us in Him.” Being *chosen* in Him is a spiritual blessing. In verse 5, he says, “Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ.” *Predestinated* unto sonship is another blessing. In verse 6, Paul declares, “To the praise of the glory of His grace with which He graced us in the Beloved.” *Graced* is another spiritual blessing. “Graced” is a verb here. To be graced means to be endowed. For example, colleges are often endowed by rich people. They receive large sums of money so they can operate. That means the college does not need to worry about money. Everything is furnished and supplied by the endowment.

One of our greatest spiritual blessings is that we have been endowed with grace. Whatever you are, whoever you are, how low on the totem pole you feel you are, how messed up you are, God has endowed you with the grace of Christ and graced you in Him. There is plenty of grace to take care of everything. All the spiritual blessings are in one spot — in Christ. We have been chosen, predestinated, and graced *in Him*.

In verse 7, Paul continues with more spiritual blessings, “In Whom we have redemption through His blood.” That is another spiritual blessing. God says, “I have chosen this one. He is the object of My affection. I have predestinated this one to be conformed to the image of My Son. And I have graced this one in My Son.” But suppose this chosen, predestinated, and graced one gets messed up. Now look at him. He is ruined and spoiled by sin and the fall. But included in the spiritual blessings is redemption. That means God comes down to redeem us and buy us back. He chose you, predestinated you, and graced you. Now, you belong to Him. Even though you go astray and get lost, He comes to buy you back. He buys you back through yet another spiritual blessing — the redemption in Christ Jesus.

When we receive Christ, to our sensation, we just received the Lord one day, but we have to realize that that receiving was based upon the endowment of God’s redemption out of eternity past. Christ was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). He contracted with the Father in the eternal covenant that He would lay His life down for the sheep (Heb. 13:20). If we were ruined by the fall, if we were messed up by sin, then that which was chosen, predestinated, and graced, would still be recovered by God. So He came and died on the cross, bore our sins, took all the negative flack Himself, took all the judgment, the guilt, the condemnation, He bore it all, the Father was satisfied with the death of His Son. And it all was poured out on one spot — on Him. From this one spot we are set free, forgiven, and washed. Amen.

All these spiritual blessings are in one spot. Ephesians 1 tells us they are all in Christ. Every spiritual blessing is in this one spot. So we need to study Christ, look at Christ, define Him, describe Him, and know Him. Consider the major steps in His process. This is a life in focus. See Him as God in eternity past. Behold His incarnation, becoming a man. Look at His human living, His crucifixion, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, His exaltation. This is the history of God’s economy with Christ, the one spot in the universe that is to be our unique focus. Then observe how He comes into our spirit. All that He is and all that He passed through is now the focus of our entire being. Then His Son in resurrection becomes available for everyone as a life-giving Spirit. So now the focus is in our spirit.

And your spirit is life all the time. It never ceases to be life, even in your worst mood. Regardless of where your

emotions go, what thoughts may pass through your mind, your spirit is deeper than all that. It remains life because of righteousness. Because He is our righteousness, our spirit is a 24 hour open door of life that never shuts down. It never says “closed.” Romans 8:10 teaches us that around the clock “our spirit is life because of righteousness.” If He ceases to be righteousness, it will shut down. But He will never for one second cease to be righteousness. So, as long as He is righteousness, our spirit will always be life.

And so that means here you are swimming in all your thoughts, but you have something deeper than your thoughts. You have a mouth and your mouth is joined to your spirit, the deepest part. Now out of your innermost being can flow rivers of living water. You can say, “Jesus.” You can call His name from deep within. Lamentations 3:55-57 says,⁵⁵ “I called on Your name, O Lord, from the lowest pit,⁵⁶ You have heard my voice: Do not hide Your ear from my sighing, from my cry for help.⁵⁷ You drew near on day I called on You, and said, ‘Do not fear!’ ” When our spirit gets engaged through calling on Him, we are focused. You discover that He is your life. The focus at that moment is that you do not handle your own thought life in its turmoil. The focus is Jesus. You say, “live in me, renew my mind, live through my mind, Lord.” At that moment you may be coexisting with heaviness in yourself while at the same time contacting, Jesus, saying, “I trust in You.”

We learn to keep affirming Him over and over again in the middle of everything. Like Peter, even with the waves roaring, the Lord says, “Come to Me.” And he gets out of the boat, and walks on the water. As long as his eyes are on the Lord, he is walking on the water. So two things are happening, there is a roaring sea, and there is the Lord’s speaking. The moment Peter took his eyes off the Lord and got them on the water, he sunk. It is a fine line. The moment you start looking at your feelings and thoughts and how bad you are and if you are going to make it or not, the moment you do that you get your eyes off Him, you sink. So we must stay focused on Him. All the spiritual blessings are in one spot — Christ.

All things are headed up in one spot

Ephesians 1:9-10 says,⁹ “Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposes in Himself¹⁰ unto an administration of the fullness of the times to head up *all* things in Christ.” This *the Christian Vol. 18, No. 3*

does not say, “head up *some* things.” All things are to be headed up and focused in Christ. This is a revealed truth in the Bible. Either it is true or it is misleading us. Or, perhaps we better qualify it a little bit. But if we hold the Bible to be God’s Word, it means that all things are to be headed in one spot, in Christ.

This means do not dare have one thing in your life outside of God. Nothing outside of God. Good things, bad things, happy things, sad things. We have nothing outside of God or life is vanity. It takes us a long time to learn this one lesson in the details of our daily life. For example, I still find a tendency to grapple with things in myself. But the more the Word gets into me, I find out that the Lord keeps interrupting me. “Bill, what are you doing? Bill, come back, come back. You are handling this yourself.” Habits, reactions, patterns, the old patterns of the old man have to be interrupted because everything is being headed up. This is not just some outward regulation. This is an inward regulation. It is the Lord regulating everything. So everything is being headed up in Him. It is all in one spot—Christ.

So let Him head you up. Learn how to live a life in fellowship with Him so that Jesus is your center, He is your point reference. Do not handle anything but Christ. Only handle Him (Col. 2:19). Do not handle yourself. You are not qualified. You are not authorized. You are not appointed to do it. You are not the savior. I am not the savior. Jesus is our only Savior. He really is our Savior. Let Him do the saving. Call upon Him. He will save. When He saves, He is heading up all things.

All the grace and supply comes from one spot

Ephesians 1:6 says, “To the praise of the glory of His grace with which He graced us in the Beloved.” The word beloved here is a verbal word. It is describing the continuous state of Jesus in His relationship with the Father. It is a perfect tense participle in Greek. It is a word indicating Jesus’ present state of being loved by the Father. He is being hit, so to speak, with the love of the Father. The Father is just lavishing His love upon His Son. He is an object of the Father’s love. This is why He is described as “the Beloved.” To be called “Beloved” is to be called according to the dynamic action of love upon us. Now, we have been graced in the One who is being loved right now. Jesus is being loved. So we are in the right spot to receive grace and supply.

And that is why 1 John 4:17 says, “As He is, so are we in this world.” As He is being loved by the Father, as He is in a relationship with the Father, so are we in this world. Look at the Father and the Son, look at that love flow between them. Forget about your fickle thoughts about yourself and your self condemnation. You are in Christ. Christ is being loved. He is the Beloved. He is the One who is in a state of being loved. And we have been graced in the One being loved.

Don’t think that you need a deeper determination. What you and I need is a deeper stopping of ourselves to let God love us in His Son. You are in the Beloved One. And you will find out the reality of John 15:9, “As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you, abide in My love.” That will do more to change you than all the “January 1st resolutions” for the last 15 years. Stay in His love and let Him do it in you. So all things come to us and are supplied from one spot. Here is the spot again. It is Christ. It is just Christ.

All the victory is concentrated in one spot

Ephesians 1:19-21 says, ¹⁹“And what is the surpassing greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength, ²⁰ which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead, seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies. ²¹ Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in that which is to come.” You name it, whoever it is, whatever ruler, whatever demon and devil, whatever you can find. The Lord Jesus went through everything and in His resurrection gloriously became the embodiment and concentration of all victory in the whole universe.

Then verse 22, “And He subjected a few things under His feet.” Look at the word, all. “And He subjected *all* things under His feet and gave Him to be head over *all* things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills *all in all*.” So look, the victory is concentrated in Christ, our Head. All the victory is concentrated in one spot.

We live sometimes with dreams — dreams of being a better person, dreams of improving our life, dreams and aspiration based upon all the disappointments. Look at our history. Look at the black spots. I am dirty. Look at my history of defeat. And we have dreams about a better day, and wondering when we are going to get it together, and all the time we are stuck in the rut of ourself.

The victory is a Person, Jesus Christ. And any depressing feeling that passes through my being has only one destiny. And that is to be swallowed up with a focused, “Lord Jesus.” It is concentrated in Him. He Himself is the One who subjected all things under His feet. Hebrews 2:8-9, says, “For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. . . But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus . . .” In other words, when everything seems to be out of focus, we remain focused in one spot — we see Jesus!

The victory is concentrated in a Person. We often substitute everything and anything for Christ. We will even substitute our victory, our good feeling about ourself, for Christ. This is how the devil tries to cheat believers from this Person. You can make up a religion, you can make up your laws, you can do so many good things, live by principles, try to be a good Christian, do this outward act or deed, to attempt to feel good about yourself. That is nothing but man-made religion. God did not give us religion. He gave us His Son. It is His Son. It is Christ who is our focus, who is our concentration, who is everything — He is the one spot we need to go to.

So the victory is in Him. So say, “Lord, turn my life around from all these puny, feeble, and weak attempts. Lord, I need to firmly grasp and hold You.” When you hold Christ this way, it changes you. You can not help it. You are in love with Him. He is your supply. It is your life to know Him, to love Him. So it is all concentrated, focused in Him. Everything is in one spot — Christ. Just learn one lesson for your whole Christian life — stay in your one spot.

— Bill Freeman

the Christian

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