

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 08/25/2019

Ephesians 1:7-10 – “Jesus Christ and the Goal of History” by Drew Hunter

Overview

This is the third message in our series on the book of Ephesians. Through this text, we see that the gospel has a personal depth and cosmic breadth to it. It is deeply personal, and at the same time it has a cosmic reach. The text shows us three realities about our salvation:

- I) The Triune Source of Salvation (v3-14)
- II) The Personal Depth of Salvation (v7-8)
- III) The Cosmic Reach of Salvation (v9-10)

We praise God for the deep and wide blessings of salvation. If we grasp this, we should live a life of thankfulness and praise to God.

Quotations

“We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value to us”
(John Calvin, *Institutes*, 3.1.1)

“guilt is fundamental to almost every problem of the human personality; it begets anxiety, is manifested in the inferiority complex and follows resentment. Any counseling—whether it is religious or secular—that is going to succeed in helping people with their problems must know what to do with the problem of guilt” (Hulme, *Counseling and Theology*, 156)

Understanding & Application

- 1) Have you been immersing yourself in Ephesians during this series? If so, in what ways have you been engaging in the book and what have you been learning? If not, what are some simple ways you could start?
- 2) Read the quote on guilt, above. How does the gospel answer this deep problem of the human condition?
- 3) As we read verse 8, we see that God’s gift of grace is not reluctant. Have you thought about your gift of salvation being lavished upon you? What impact does this have on you knowing that the Father sacrificed his Son for you without hesitation?
- 4) In verse 10 we see God’s plan for the fullness of time is to unite all things in Christ. In light of the week you’ve had or what is going on in the world, how does this bring you comfort? Consider sharing this truth with a discouraged brother or sister this week.
- 5) Review verses 4-6. In what ways can we thank God for his gracious gift of choosing us every day?
- 6) In response to these verses, how can we reflect God’s kindness and have a posture of grace and forgiveness with one another this week?