

Sermon Text Discussion 9/1/19

Enjoying a God-Centered Life (Drew Hunter)

Ephesians 1:11-14

Overview

Today, we continue in our study of Ephesians 1. So far, we've read of the triune nature of God's plan for our salvation. God the Father planned our salvation by choosing us and adopting us into his family. Jesus, God's Son, accomplished our salvation by taking the judgement we deserve and we see that the plan is for all creation to be brought together into unity in and under Christ. Today, we shift our focus to the Holy Spirit, who helps us apply God's salvation to our lives. The Holy Spirit truly encourages us to live a God-centered life by helping us:

- trust God's sovereignty
- enjoy his presence
- live for his glory

Quotation

"God gave us the Holy Spirit as a way of saying 'You are mine. My special possession. You are my inheritance' " Drew Hunter

"One day the new creation will come in its fullness with God's presence with his people. But now, we already have his presence with us in part. God has given us the promised Holy Spirit already; a down payment. The Holy Spirit is a foretaste of more to come." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Have you ever received an inheritance? In what form (money, jewelry, property, etc.)? How did it make you feel? We read in verse 11 that we have obtained an inheritance from God. In what form do you think it takes? What evidence do you find in these verses that this inheritance is God's plan?
- 2) Describe the difference between having authority over something or someone verses control. Describe situations when you have one but not the other? Do you feel you ever have both?
- 3) Read verse 11 and Romans 8:28. What does the phrase 'God is sovereign' mean to you? Do you really believe God controls all things? Describe a situation when you trusted (or didn't) in God's sovereignty through a difficult situation.
- 4) The Holy Spirit may be the most difficult member of the Trinity to describe and understand. How would you describe the Holy Spirit to a non-Christian? How would you incorporate the terms 'seal' and 'guarantee' (verses 13, 14) into your description?
- 5) Read the second quote above. What proof or evidence do you see of the Holy Spirit living with us now? Describe a real example with your small group.
- 6) One of the practical ways Drew suggested using this text was as a daily model to praise God. Write out specific things from this text to which you can thank God. Add 10 additional blessing you have received from God for which you are thankful. Share with your small group.