

First Baptist Church – Calgary

Week of: January 3, 2010

Message Series: Ephesians – God’s New Society

#1 – Living in the present in light of the past.

Introduction:

This week we are looking at Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian Christians. Like most of Paul’s written prayers, it contains some deep theological truths that remind Christians who God is and who they are called to be. Within this particular prayer, Paul also states a couple of important truths that are often forgotten by the Church, and that can cripple the ability of people to practice the “double listening” that we spoke about in our first study two weeks ago.

Study Notes:

Personal Study: #3 – *Traveling the 18 inch path.*

Read Ephesians 1:15-16

1. What seem to be the two characteristics of the church in Ephesus?
What would Paul describe as the 2-3 characteristics of FBC?

Read verses 17-19.

2. Paul prays for three specific things for the believers in Ephesus to have revealed to them – the hope of God’s glory; the glory of God’s inheritance, and; the greatness of God’s power.

Think about these for a few moments, in order to come up with the qualities you would expect to see in people for whom these prayers are answered.

3. Which of the three above do you yearn for most these days? Why?

4. Pastor Ken spoke about the 18 inch path that must be traveled in order to realize what Paul is praying for, and that you can not travel it intellectually – it involves a spiritual revelation not from yourself.

How far down that path do you sense you have traveled? Why?

5. Ken also spoke of three things that can block this path: past hurts; present preoccupations, and; future fears.

Which of these cause your path to be blocked most often?

What do you need to resolve today?

6. Ken emphasized the truth that the Church is the Body of Christ, *“and as such holds within it the fullness of Jesus, who himself receives the entire fullness of God.”* (New English Bible).

The point of this is that the mission of Christ’s followers is to demonstrate to the world what it looks like for a people to live together with the *entire fullness of God*.

What does such fullness look like?

How are you contributing to it? How are you perhaps taking away from it?

Pray today for everyone at FBC to have God’s revelation & fullness given to them. Encourage one another in this!