

God's Wisdom

Ephesians 1.15-18

Key Points

We looked at these verses through the lens of the Wisdom of God. Paul was delighted by the faith that had been established in the lives of the Ephesians, but he wanted them to discover more about God. In particular he prayed

- For a spirit of wisdom and revelation that would enable them to know God better, and
- That the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened so that they would know God's hope, the riches of their inheritance and God's power

The reference to power is in verse 19, and although God's power is necessary to enable the changes being prayed for in verses 15-18, we only alluded to it, rather than studied it this week.

As sinful human beings our relationship with God has been broken and it is only restored when we come to faith. Sin still tarnishes that relationship: the relationship can only deepen as we find out more about God, and as we change to become more like him. The spirit of wisdom and revelation is essential to that process.

As we know God better, so our hearts are enlightened and we understand more about the hope He offers us, more about the eternal inheritance we have, and how viewing this life from an eternal dimension grows hope in us.

Christian hope is not about being unrealistic, and it is not about denying pain and suffering. It is about having a world view that acknowledges that despite there being finite pain there is infinite hope. However much we may be buffeted and drained by life, God offers hope and not cynicism.

Questions

1. What does it mean to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation? How have you experienced this? How have you changed as a result?
2. If you were to meet someone who is full of hope, what would they be like?
3. How do you retain hope when
 - a) You observe suffering (eg the Rohingyas in Myanmar)?
 - b) You experience suffering or something you find draining?
4. How would you describe the glorious inheritance we have in Christ? What difference does it make when you are facing a difficult situation?
5. What helps you to integrate God's thoughts, and His way of thinking into your thoughts and whole way of living?

During your time of prayer, include all the things you have to be thankful for during the past week, as well as asking God for wisdom and revelation to let His thoughts permeate into your lives.