

God's Plan - Our Inheritance & His Presence

Ephesians 3.1-13

Key Points:

- God has a plan, and it is always bigger than our plans. In any given circumstance, our plans are going to be limited by what we believe is possible. For God, nothing is impossible and so His plans are never limited to what we can imagine or hope for - it's bigger! Therefore it's important not to confuse what we think God's plan might be, with what God's plan actually is.
- In v.6 Paul declares that God's plan is that all who believe in Jesus share equally in the inheritance given to God's children. Inheritance is not earned but it changes us. God's inheritance includes all the blessings and promises that we have in Christ - forgiveness, acceptance, wisdom, power, grace, love, relationship with God etc. We need to choose to receive this on a daily basis.
- In v.10-11 Paul says that God's plan is to use the church to display His wisdom (& victory) to the powers of darkness. The church is proof of God's big plan - of Jesus' victory at the cross even in the moment when the powers of darkness thought they'd won. And so when we act as the church, worshipping, loving & blessing, encouraging etc. we're demonstrating God's wisdom and victory. Whatever our situation, it's always God's plan to BE the church
- In v.12 Paul reveals that we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence, and so God's plan is always to spend time dwelling in His presence.

Questions:

1. Share an experience when after going through a really tough season, you were able to look back and see God's hand in the situation.
2. Does it always feel like God has a plan, that God is in sovereign over all and that He's in control?
3. How does God's plan differ from ours?
4. Are you God's child? What is God's inheritance for His children? How do we receive this inheritance?
5. Paul describes the privilege of serving God in spreading the Gospel (v.7). Do you consider this calling for us all a privilege?
6. If God's plan is to use the church to display His wisdom, what might this look like? What does 'being the church' look like on a Sunday? How about the rest of the week?
7. What is the significance of now being able to come boldly and confidently into God's presence (v.12)?
8. We need to chose to be present in God's presence. Do you consciously and intentionally spend time in God's presence? How do you do this? Share ideas and encourage each other.