

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 8/11/19

Ephesians 1:1-2; How Immersing In Ephesians Can Change Your Life

Overview

- Why Engage With Ephesians?
- Who Wrote It?
- Who Received It?
- What Can We Expect From It?

Quotations

If Romans is the purest expression of the gospel, then Ephesians is the most majestic expression of it. (Martin Lloyd Jones)

We're living in an age where many people understand the gospel, but only at a superficial level. They believe that Jesus died for our sins on the cross and he rose again, but it doesn't seem like a deep message. It seems like just a bland statement of facts. But the gospel is deeper and richer than we often think. It's like the ocean floor and like outer space; we're still exploring it and learning new things and seeing what we couldn't see before. (Hunter)

Understanding & Application

1. Have you ever felt like the second quotation above, in other words, that you understand Jesus pretty well, and don't think there is much else to see here? What do you do with these thoughts? Contrast them to Ephesians 2:7 and 3:8. What do we need to be able to even understand just how deep God's love is? Examine Ephesians 3:18.
2. Drew indicated that Ephesians isn't just written to show the depth of the gospel, but also to celebrate the gospel. Spend some time contemplating the effusive language Paul uses in Ephesians 1:3-14.
3. The first half of the book is about what God has done for us in Christ; the second half is how we now live for Christ. Why do you think that the book is structured this way? Interact with this statement: God's commands are always in the context of grace.
4. Why is it surprising that Paul was "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God"? Share the story of Paul (his early life and conversion). How does this offer hope to the world?
5. Why is "individualistic Christianity" an oxymoronic term?
6. Drew indicated that the city of Ephesus was more like our current world than not. In what ways is Ephesus similar to our current cultural situation? Interact with this statement: "We are in the midst of a culture that increasingly views Christian morality as bigoted" (Hunter)
7. In what ways are you going to implement the "ZF Immersion Plan" regarding the Book of Ephesians?

Ephesians 1:1-2

How Immersing In Ephesians Can Change Your Life

Drew Hunter