

Deepening our Intimacy with God - 2



Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Ephesians 1:6-14



Big Idea

We are created for deep, interactive fellowship with the Triune God, and to this end, he wills and works, in and for us, before the foundation of the world. He pours out blessings upon us, so that we are conformed to his image.

Inundated with Grace (vs 6-8a)

Grace is an empowerment for living the kind of life that God wants for you (cf Titus 2:11-14), and it is always a gift initiated by God, which he lavishes upon us. The language of redemption has its roots in the Old Testament, and it involves the idea of buying back something or someone that was lost or destroyed - and that is me and you.

God's all embracing Plan (vs 8b-10)

God not only redeems us, he actually takes the extra step to ensure we know we belong to him, by making known to us his plan or his purpose for all of creation. The point of these verses is that the consummation of all things happens in the person of Christ. By this I mean the completion of God's plan of salvation - and you are in that plan.

A Godly heritage (vs 11-12)

Everyone who is "in Christ" are God's chosen people, that have now been claimed by him as an inheritance (Ephesians, PNTC). Building on God's all embracing plan, Paul is ensuring you see and understand that you are in God's family. You are very much in the plan of God. You are his inheritance and you have a godly heritage.

An Unshakeable Anchor (vs 13-14)

The Holy Spirit is God's first installment on our salvation and the guarantee that the full inheritance will be delivered unto us. The full inheritance that we eventually take full possession of is us becoming Christlike. It is not that we take possession of an inheritance, it is that God takes full possession of us i.e. we are forever his!

Application: Knowing God

To know God is to feast on His Word! It is to take seriously the command from the Lord, which says "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it."



Homework

- How is God inviting you to respond to what you have heard?
 - Is God inviting you to repentance? If so, identify what you are repenting of and give it over to Him
 - Is God calling you to trust him more in a certain area?
 - Is God calling you to eliminate hurry and busyness from your life?
- Choose a book of the bible to study, and buy a good commentary for that book of the bible
 - Set out a concrete time in the morning and/or evening
 - Pick a comfortable place to be in
 - Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you. Read the book of the bible and read the commentary.
 - Read slowly and meditatively. Watch for connections to your heart and life.
 - Maybe have a journal and write in it, including your prayers
 - Keep at it, and when you skip/miss it, don't beat yourself up but take it seriously as well