

Thursday

Read Ephesians 1:13-14. Who is Paul specifically addressing these words to based on yesterday's devotional? What is the word of Truth? Can you articulate the gospel? (If you need help, read I Corinthians 15:1-6.) What does it mean to be "sealed in the Holy Spirit?" God has given us a pledge that all that has been said and done can be trusted. He is giving us a guarantee that we need never fear or worry! This is a blessing like no other and again should give birth to the praise of his glory!

Friday

Read Ephesians 1:1-14. Journal your thoughts and questions. Ask God to allow these truths to find a home in your heart. You are truly blessed in Christ and given everything you need and more to live an abundant life. I pray all of us at FBC will do just that...to the praise of his glory!

WAKE UP... and see the Glory

The Blessing Continued

Ephesians 1:7-14

Introduction
The Problem with Ants

What has this blessing accomplished?

1. It _____ our _____!

Eph. 1:7-8a

2. It _____ the _____!

Eph. 1:8b-10; Matthew 13:16-17

3. It _____ everyone!

Eph. 1:11-12

4. It _____ the _____!

Eph. 1:13-14

Conclusion
The only thing left is praise!

Sunday, January 31, 2010

by Jason Whalen, Senior Pastor

Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

As a parent I am often trying to point my kids to the bigger picture. The reason we can't play games or watch TV into the wee hours of the night is because sleep is far too important. They need to eat right and focus on their education because it will benefit them down the road. Unfortunately these "lectures" don't seem to help them understand. Why you ask? Because kids have a tendency to live in the present and will rarely lift their eyes to bigger things, to the future. That is my job as a parent. The same is true in our spiritual lives that we can get so focused on the now that we fail to lift our eyes to big picture truths that are designed to give context and perspective to our present. This is what the book of Ephesians does in brilliant color...lift our eyes to the big picture. Let's go back to that passage we studied Sunday and I will show you what I mean.

Monday

Read Ephesians 1:7-8a and Colossians 1:13-14. What does it mean to be redeemed? How has this redemption been accomplished? What part did you play in your redemption? What percentage of your redemption was accomplished by you and what percentage was accomplished by Christ? I want you to write down a number for each. It was by his blood and because of grace that you have been rescued. Rejoice and praise God!

Tuesday

Read Ephesians 1:8a-10 and Matthew 13:16-17. What has been made known to us? Based on the Matthew passage, has this information always been available? This passage declares two important truths that we must open our eyes to. First, God has a plan for everyone and everything. Second, he knows what he's doing. I pray this knowledge encourages you to place all your pain and adversity in its proper context in Christ!

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 1:11-12. There are two groups of people being described in these two verses. Can you identify them? (Hint: Think of the prevailing conflict in the early days of the church). What is Paul trying to say to these two groups? What is the purpose of God's work as described at the end of verse 12? This is our reason for living! May we exist to the praise of his glory!