

...the main points again

Theology written as prayer and praise

Having the song of Jesus stuck in your head and moving to its rhythm

What did Jesus ever do for me?

Arriving at the wrong answer by asking a leading question...

Better **What did God do in Christ?**

Knowing where you are blessed

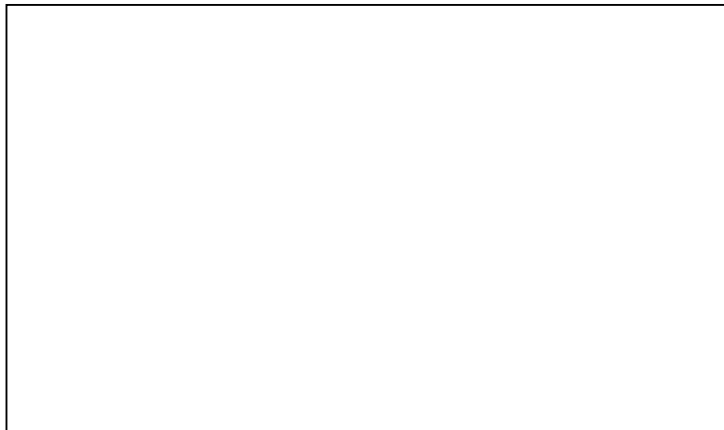
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

*blessed us **in the heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing **in Christ***

Paul, almost relentlessly, sees that everything that God has done, he has done in and through Jesus the Messiah

- Tom Wright

What heaven are you looking for?



Good news but my world looks the same

Good news from a man in prison?

'...why does Paul describe his sufferings as their 'glory'? The answer is surely that he is suffering precisely because he is pioneering a new way of life that challenges the sovereignty of the rulers and authorities. The fact that he is in prison is a sign that the Christian way is indeed posing a decisive threat to the rule of evil in the world'

- Tom Wright

Dead or alive?

*But as for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live, when you followed the ways of this world, and of the rulers of the kingdom of the air...But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions- it is by grace you have been saved. And **God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...***

Moving from **black and white**
to **multicolour**

- definition by barriers-
- definition by relationship
in Christ

Being built together into a dwelling place for God **in Christ**

Getting stuck on the song of Jesus

...the Truth shall set you free and the Truth has a name; he's over in the woodshop right now covered in sawdust. Everything is about him. And freedom is a process that happens inside a relationship with him. Then all the stuff you feel churning inside will start to work its way out.

- *The Shack*, William P. Young, p.95

Paul's prayer

...for the power of knowing that you are loved eternally, consistently...

...so what...

What shortcomings in our understanding of Christian faith and the work of God might we have if we define it solely in terms of what Jesus did *for me*?

Are we the centre of the universe? Do we live as such?

Read 1.3.

What difference does it make if we see the way we are blessed as *in Christ and in the heavenly realms*?

If heaven is the realm of God, then can we be blessed on earth if we are blessed in the heavenly realms?

Discuss God's purpose for his work in Christ looking at 1.10 and 1.22

Look at 1.14. If the Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing a future- what should we expect any of the future in the present?

Do all Christians have the Holy Spirit?

Are all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit?

Read 2.1-10

Are we dead or alive?

What does our life depend on? See the quote from *The Shack* overleaf

Read 2.10: What do you think is the nature of the work that God has prepared for us?

Read 2.14-22

How does the cross affect our relationship with other people as well as our relationship with God?

How might it affect the way we live our faith if we believe that we are saved to be a people?

What might these verses have to say about racism?

Read the prayer in 3.14-end

Reflect on this together. Do you feel the power of being loved by God? Pray for one another or ask someone to pray for you....

Sunday November 2nd

Living the



Ephesians

Way...

*What has Jesus
ever done for me?*

Ephesians 1-3