

The Plan

Sunday Jan 11, 2009

Eph 1:3-14

Worship – The Christian Heart

- A Picture of God
- A Story of What He is Up To
- A Picture of How We Fit In That Story

Words

Words Have Meaning and History

Predestination – ‘Decide Beforehand’

Decide What?

Two Keys

In Christ – God Chose Christ; Included Us In Him

The Plan – God Chose Goals

The Plan

- Deciding the Goal
- The Reality of Resistance
- The Priority of Relationship

What Has God Decided?

- To Bless
- To Have Holy and Blameless People
- To Adopt People as His Children
- To Accomplish this by Jesus Coming, Dying, Rising
- That Christ will be Head Over All
- That God will be Glorified

So What

- Our Picture of God – Shaped by What He Decides
- The Story of What He is Doing – How the World Works
- Our Picture of How We Fit In That Story

Take it Home!

Read Eph 1:3-14.

Do you have any strong goals and plans?

What are *God's* goals and plans, according to this passage?

Does your life feel like an adventure? Could partnering with *God's* goals and plans increase your sense of adventure?

What is your most basic response to *God*, fear or love? Do you tend to pull back from *God*, or eagerly approach Him?

When bad things happen do you tend to think *God* is doing them, or do you go to *God* for help?

Think back over the last week. What have you done that was in any way 'religious' or connected to *God*? (read Bible, pray, attend church, acts of kindness ...) Why did you do those things? (gratitude, love, fear, guilt, habit ...)

Take It Home - Take this home and use these questions to think about the ideas shared today. It is even better if you can use these questions in a conversation with someone else.