The Life and Letters of Paul

Ephesians 1

1. **Sometimes we must be reminded of our identity in Christ by what he has done for "US". Paul does just that in the beginning of this letter.**

Blessed, Loved us, Chose, Adopted, poured out, purchased us, Showered us.

Eph. 1:3-8/ 1 Thessalonians 4:17- to us is not always for now but forever/ Revelation 21:3-God's people God's home

2. **One of the reasons we find it hard to follow Christ, is because there comes a point where thing is not going according to *plan* (our plan) and we struggle with that.**

Eph. 1:9-11/ Isaiah 55:8-9 (CEB)- My plans aren't your plans/ Proverbs 16:9-we try to plan like we are in control/ Romans 6:23- The problem and the plan

3. **By the Jews rejecting the message of the cross, it opened a door for a people who were not his people an opportunity to come to Christ. *Purpose* and will, God is in control and he put his stamp on it.**

Eph. 1:12-14/2 Peter 3:9-if you have time, it's because God gave it/Eph 1:14- The Spirit is God's guarantee.

4. **When it comes to a strong faith in God and a love for his people, what would others say about you, or your church?**

Eph. 1:15/Galatians 5:6-strong faith shows in love/1 Timothy 1:14- if it's in you if flows out/Titus 2:2- for grown folks this is a must.

5. **No matter how far we have come, there is still a journey ahead that will take continual conversation with God and support from the body of Christ, Paul prayed for growth continually after hearing a good report.**

Eph. 1:16-17/Philippians 4:6-good things need prayer too/Philippians 2:16- hold firmly, not just doing things to do, but to bring God glory.

6. **Paul's hope in this verse is not only that they know of Christ and the work of the cross in their minds, but also in their hearts (a light bulb moment)**

Eph. 1:18/1 Timothy 2:4(AMP)-knowledge and recognition/ 2 Timothy 2:25-26- truly knowing causes change.

7. **When you as a believer speak of God's power, is there a punch to it or is it just another word. (what would your duper hero power be) SAME POWER**

Eph. 1:19-21/Romans 6:14-when we don't recognize the power of Jesus, we give it to sin

8. **Paul is graphically picturing the way Christ has defeated all his enemies and reigns as king of all things.**

Eph. 1:22-23/Psalm 110:1- Satan is under my feet/1 Corinthians 15:25-28-God wins over the enemy.