

# St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups.

May 7th 2006

## Live a new life! – Knowing God



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

**Eph 1: 15:23 We are chosen and adopted and marked by the Spirit.**

*Paul then prays for the Ephesians [and so we pray for each other ]:*

**To receive the Spirit of revelation and wisdom..** our lives marked by the very work of the Holy Spirit who instructs us in the truth. Wisdom comes from God and is given to those who ask...**to know God better** not knowing *about* God (study, learning, knowledge) but about *knowing Him..* as a married couple know and understand each other. This can only happen by the work and power of the Spirit. Cramming as much bible knowledge into our memory banks is not what *knowing* God is about. To know God presumes that He knows us. No other religion teaches a relationship of intimacy with God.

*He prays* that the **eyes of their hearts may be enlightened..** to see with the heart, to which the will is subject, means seeing what God is doing and doing it with him. Means seeing spiritual realities of a situation, means facing the most terrible situation with God's hope.

*He prays* that they may **know the hope of their calling** (to adoption as children), **of their inheritance** (heaven) and the **incomparable power of God who** raised Jesus for the dead. This power is so different and greater than ours. His use of terms that describe God's power reflects the Ephesian setting of occult practice, spells and incantations used in pagan worship. Jesus power is greater and his name stronger than their use of names makes their spells more potent.

We put our trust in other sources of power... we will find that when the storm hit we have no anchorage, we need to put our anchor into God's powerful strength.

**Luke 8: 40-48** Woman with the flow of blood trusted in Jesus power. To heal. He responded, and called to know who she was. He then restored her hope, named her daughter, and gave her back the community she had been cast from.

This is the same work Paul is praying about here.. that we would be known by God and know God; that we would live our lives as His children within the community He has given us, of which Jesus is the head and we are the body. As his body we complete Jesus, and He reigns in heaven as fully man and fully God.

The disciples knew Jesus by meeting him, they knew him better by following him watching what he was doing and joining in with it. So may we.. as his adopted children filled with His hope by the power and work of His Spirit.



### Witness: Questions to discuss

1. In which of the three areas Paul prays for us to know (hope of calling, hope of the riches of his inheritance, knowledge of his incomparable power) do you think you most need to grow in, and which do you think our church family most needs to grow in?
2. How do you think we might receive the kind of revelation that Paul is talking about here? does it come immediately, slowly, to individuals, to groups, through our minds, our hearts?
3. How can you pursue the call to know God?
4. What place does knowledge of the scriptures have in knowing God better? (note that in Paul's day copies of the scriptures (OT) were not available beyond copies that were read to congregations, a portion each Sabbath.) What place does meditation/pondering have? How can you do both?
5. How have you seen God's power at work? How can we effectively use the power that God gives us in relation to justice, poverty, loneliness, unbelief, sickness, brokenness?