

SERMON NOTES Sunday 17th October

sunnysidechurch

Living Church: Faith and Love

Bible passages: Ephesians 1.15-23; 1 Timothy 1.1-7

Introduction

Living Church

- Church as the living Body of Christ with Christ as the head
- Church as something we live out

Paul and Ephesus

- Ephesus an important city which was proud of its temple and amphitheatre
- Paul worked there for three years (Acts 18.19-20.38)
- Paul had close personal relationship with the church in Ephesus
- Timothy appointed as overseer
- Letter to Ephesus – lost first love (Rev 2.5)

Faith and Love

- Paul give thanks for the faith and love of the Ephesians and praises God's power
- Paul prays that the Holy Spirit would help them know God better
- Paul reminds them that the power of God at work in them

Conclusion

- Sunnyside's vision: 'to be recognised as a Christ-centred community of living faith'
- God's power at work in us will enable us to grow in faith and love.

Some questions for discussion

1. Read Acts 18.19-20.38 and Revelation 2.5-7. What do these passages tell you about Ephesus and the church there?
2. Read Ephesians 1.15-23. How does knowing that this is one sentence help you understand what Paul is saying?
3. Paul gives thanks for the faith and love of the Ephesians. How are these two connected to Living Church and being a Living Church?
4. In what ways do we need to grow in faith and love if we are 'to be recognised as a Christ-centred community of living faith'.
5. Paul reminds the Ephesians of the power of God. Do we need reminding of the extent of God's power? How might knowing God's power affect our lives?
6. Read 1 Timothy 1.1-7. Paul warns against false teaching. What false teaching do we need to be on guard against?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
...may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so
that you may know him better.

Ephesians 2.17

Why not spend some time asking God to fill you afresh with his Spirit so you might know him better.

Revd Rebecca Fardell