

Sunday 10 June 2018

Speaker: Martin Armstrong



To Be A Transforming
Community Committed
to Jesus Christ

Sermon Summary

Ephesians 1:15-23 'That you may have wisdom and understanding'

1. Victor Serienko was 32 and had failed at 76 different jobs. Part of his interview process for job number 77, was an IQ test. Victor scored 161 and was classified as a genius. This fact changed his life. Like Victor, others may not appreciate us or the things that we do. Discuss
2. Sometimes we want God to make people do things our way. God wants us to accept others and to pray for His best for them. In what areas are we sometimes intolerant and unfair?
3. In Ephesians 1:16 Paul prays *"I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly."* As we develop an attitude of love, concern and gratitude for others, we're more likely to be able to pray for them according to God's will. Discuss
4. The Greek word for 'know' is *epignosis*. This means 'fullness of knowledge' or 'knowledge that transforms or makes a difference'. Paul wants his readers to have information from God that impacts their lives. What are some examples of *epignosis* knowledge?
5. In v17 Paul prays that *we can have the spirit of wisdom and revelation that enables us to know God better*. When we know the 'God of all wisdom', His wisdom becomes our wisdom. Wisdom and revelation reveal to us God's will & His heart in any situation. Are you able to tap into that? Give an example of when you've used it? **Do you personally pray for that?**
6. When someone shines a torch in a totally dark room, the light dispels the darkness, the room is 'enlightened'. In the same way the HS wants to enlighten the eyes of our understanding. In the dark areas of our lives are hurtful memories from the past; addictions, bad thoughts and behaviours which we struggle with. When God's light shines, we feel His presence and His power and change starts to occur. **Give an example of how this has happened in your life.**
7. Hope is the confident expectation of good things to come. The situation for early believers in Ephesus & Rome were difficult. **What were some of the difficulties they were facing?**

8. We can face the present if we know that our future is secure. What are some of the great rewards we can look forward to as believers?
9. *'That we would know His incomparably great power for us who believe'*. v18-19 . It seems strange for Paul to be writing about God's incomparably great power, while he is powerless in a Roman jail. How can you this power when you feel trapped? Discuss
10. Paul's talking about the incredible power that raised Jesus from the dead. Paul wants us to know and to understand the reality of resurrection power. What is it that seems dead in your life today that you know God desires to see come alive? (Relationships, finances, creativity, peace, talents, feelings of hopelessness)
11. There's power available for every believer... but so many believers never hook into it, and their lives can become impotent and useless. Are you connected? **John 15:5** Jesus said I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Discuss and pray for each other.