



January 2012

Eph 1: 11-12 - Called Out

Message Notes / Community Group Questions

Introduction

As we venture into 2012, it's important that we realign ourselves with what God's vision is for Church. There are three biblical purposes to God's plan for Church (Ecclesia "The Called Out Ones"). This week we examine why it is important to remind ourselves of the importance of Church, what God's first purpose is and what our first step towards this is.

Discussion (for Community Groups)

"If you would attain to what you are not yet, you must always be displeased by what you are. For where you are pleased with yourself there you have remained. Keep adding, keep walking, keep advancing." Augustine

- What are you displeased with in life and what are you seeking to "keep adding to, keep walking towards, keep advancing in"?

Explanation

- What does "Ecclesia" mean and how does it differ from what the 'person on the street' might think?

Eph 1:11-12

- What is our inheritance?
- What comfort is there in knowing our lives are planned? Why is this difficult for us sometimes?
- What is God's ultimate purpose for us?

Col 3:16

- What are the two ways in which we minister to God?
- What was the main problem in the Church in Ephesus that Jesus addresses in Rev 2?

2 Chr 7:14

- What should be our first step towards a change?

Application

- What does being "Ecclesia" mean to you and, in the light of this, how is God challenging you?
- How do you most effectively remind yourself of God's love for you?
- What can we do to specifically personally minister to God this week?
- In what ways can we minister to others this week?
- What specific areas do we need to seek repentance for?