

February 13th, 2022

Ephesians 1:15-23

Title: Knowing and Doing God's Will

Introduction: Why was the book of Ephesians written? God wants His church to “build itself up in love toward saints” (4:15), so it can “stand against the devil’s schemes” (6:11), as it fearlessly proclaims “the mystery of the gospel” (6:19).

Ephesians 1:15-18a: For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened. (ESV)

How do we build strong relationships for a strong church with a strong ministry?



1. Know God.

Tim Keller’s book: “Unintentional Preaching Models,” Preaching to the Heart; (Ockenga Institute of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

Thomas Aquinas was perhaps the greatest medieval theologian who ever lived. He put everything – anthropology, science, ethics, psychology, political theory and theology; all under his concept of God. Then, on December 6, 1273, Aquinas abruptly stopped his work. He was worshipping in the chapel of St. Thomas when he caught a glimpse of eternity. Suddenly, Aquinas knew that all his efforts to describe

God fell so far short that he decided never to write again about God because everything starts with a growing knowledge of God. (Journal: "Reasons to Fear Easter")

2. Know God's Hope.

We can live in the confidence that comes when we know that God has personally invited us to be in close relationship with himself.

Ephesians 1:18b Paul says, "[I am praying] that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you." (ESV)

3. Know God's Power.

Ephesians 1:19-23 "...what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (ESV)

Conclusion: If we want to build strong relationships for a strong church with a strong ministry, then 1st, we must know God; 2nd, we must know God's hope; & 3rd, we must know God's power.