

Sermons at All Saints Church, Luxembourg

An All Age talk by Rev Geoff Read on Sunday 18th August 2024

Bible text: Ephesians 5:15-20

There's a saying in English about how we see life

Some people are butter side down, other butter side up

Now what does that mean?

Another saying is are you a glass half full or half empty sort of person?

As Christians, followers of Jesus, children of God we are called not to be glass half empty people

Not even glass half full people

But glass overflowing people



It's not about what we are like, our personalities

It's about who we are becoming in Christ, how Jesus is growing and shaping us however young or old we are

In our first reading St Paul talks about how that happens as we face things in life

When we need to live in complex, uncertain times – will we be wise or unwise?

When we need to make decisions – how can we make the most of the time, understanding God's will?

Its whether we live self-centred, Me lives or God centred lives (v18)

And at the heart of this is not whether we are glass half empty or full sort of people but people who are aware of the abundance that God gives and actively desire us to have!

That starts with thanks

Note how Paul says we are to be people who give thanks at all times and for everything in the name of Jesus (v20)

We are to be people expecting to see that goodness, going into each day as a gift from God and saying: so where is the goodness today?!

That's not about being glass half full or half empty people

Its about being glass overflowing people

Its about a growing practice that grows a growing awareness and trust in how much God loves us whatever our lives bring

How He is working out His loving purposes even in the midst of any and every circumstance



Seeing things that way isn't about personality – glass half full or empty

It's about a choice

It's also something to choose every day

But it isn't something we have to stress and strain to do in our own strength

Its something God in His abundance makes possible if we want it

All it takes is an expectant turn to Him as we start each new day

In our reading it says “be filled with the Holy Spirit ...”

In fact its more accurate to say “be being filled with the Spirit ...”

Not as one-off thing

But each day asking for that filling, that awareness, that overflowing abundance to enable us to see as God sees, trust and experience His provision, His giving

And then asking again tomorrow!

Disciples of Jesus are to be hose people, connected constantly to the source of living water rather than watering can people who are filled as and when needed!