**ST LUKE’S CHURCH – HOME GROUP QUESTIONS – 5/6/16**

**Psalm 62:1-2 and Ephesians 1: 1-6 & 15-23**

**Sermon outline**

1. **Looking back at what God has done in Jesus** (*v.15 “For this reason…”* i.e. Verses 3-14*)*
2. **Looking up with faith in Jesus alone** *(V.15 “Ever since I heard about your FAITH in the Lord Jesus…”)*
3. **Looking forward that they may know the blessings they have already received** (v.18 *“That you may know the HOPE to which he has called you…”)*

1. What did you think about the introductory quotation from Justin Welby, saying that he sees it as the Archbishop of Canterbury’s responsibility “to enable not just faith, but faith in Jesus Christ, to be at the centre of our conversation”.

Why do we sometimes hesitate to use the name of Jesus, rather than ‘God’, outside the walls of the church – and sometimes also within?

1. What do we make of this Bible definition of faith: *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”* (Hebrews 11:1)?(In another translation: *“What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we hoped for is going to happen”.)*

OR, what about this definition? “Faith is looking at our own situation and our own frailty in the light of who God is and what Jesus has done for us.”

1. For a healthy Christian life it is very important to follow Pauls’ example and to keep Christian praise (vs.3-14) and prayer vs. 15-23 together? Why is this the case? Which do we tend to over-emphasise?
2. Looking at verses 15 onwards, how do our prayers compare with Paul’s? What can we learn, especially about the way that they cover the past, present and future?
3. What kind of things are summed up by; *“the hope to which he has called you”* (v.18)?
4. “Hope is not a vague optimism, or wishful thinking. It is looking at the future in the light of who God is, and at what he has promised to do”. How does Ephesians 1 help us to understand this better?
5. The Apostle doesn’t regard it as presumptuous that we should think about the hope of our heavenly inheritance, or even anticipate the resurrection life in the new heavens and earth with joy and gratitude. Why is it important to take this attitude towards our “sure and certain hope”?

**“It is not great faith that we need, but faith in a great God.” (Hudson Taylor)**