Ephesians 1:1-14 What Is Church: Wrapping up Fintry, 9/12/2012, pm

A personal reflection

- Journey of reflection on the state of the church
  - not a completed thing
  - drawn out of desire to reach Scotland - and whichever part of it I happen to be in - for Christ
  - apparent inability of the church of my experience to fulfil that vision, that call of Christ
  - statistics...
- *The ship is listing!*

- Instintinctive answer of my heritage to that conundrum is faithfulness
  - if we could only have a purer church, one that held to the gospel more faithfully, we would see more fruit...
  - while evangelical, gospel proclaiming churches have perhaps seen less decline than others over the past 20-30 years, "less bad" is hardly a commendation

- *The ship is listing!*
  - different reading, experiences, reflections have shown me that in different ways recently...
  - want to share some of that sense with you, out of which our exploration over these past few weeks has arisen

Images of Church

- Adopted into family/household - v.5, 2:19...
- Members of Christ's body - "in Christ", v.13, v.7, v.11, 4:4, 4:12...
- Going to church, going to family, going to body...!

- *So the ship is listing...*

Organising Principle

- Explore four circles of Worship, Discipleship, Community and Mission
  - how we might be said to organise ourselves round worship...
  - how we maybe should be organising round mission...
  - (Missio Dei, God as sender, his mission to see his kingdom/his rule established)

- *So the ship is listing...*

Puzzle!

- Stan Laurel...
  - beginning to push towards things... LifeShapes, self-awareness...