

Saturday & Sunday, May 12 & 13, 2018 - "Hope Restored - Week 5" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Romans 5:1-11, 13, Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Corinthians 5:18

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- We all experience seasons of setback and are prone to "heart sickness"
- Hope is a necessary and integral part of our lives and it is the fertile soil for so many other good things
- Romans 5:1-11
- A series of declarations of the truth → "DO I BELIEVE THIS?" (deep in our very beings)
- What we believe deep down affects the way we respond
 - Doug's questioning the truth that he loved them when they didn't get what they wanted
 - We believe that a person of God loves us by how they "perform"
 - We do this to one another and we also do it with God
 - When we come across a truth in the scripture we must meditate and internalize it deep down
- All of the truth statements in Romans 5 hinge on one thing...
 - Verse 1: Therefore, since you have been justified by faith
 - We are in right standing before God, righteous
 - God didn't start loving us when we were saved, He has loved us since he created us
- Declarations of truth when we are justified
 - **We have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ**
 - Shalom = peace in the midst of difficulty (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - When we are at peace with God it is easier to be at peace with others
 - **We rejoice in hope of the Glory of God**
 - We get to see God for who he really is...at least in some ways
 - 360 perspective: Seeing all God has done and all He will do
 - **We rejoice in suffering**
 - We can know God is at work in our lives and that He is good and can be trusted
 - Endurance → character → hope
 - His love is literally poured into us by the Holy Spirit
 - Paul wants the reader to be sure God loves them regardless
 - v6-7, 10: While we were His enemy, He came to die for us
 - Sometimes we give ourselves too much credit
 - **We receive reconciliation**
 - God does this because He is love...JUST BECAUSE HE LOVES US→ the display of HESSED
 - Because we have received reconciliation we are called to ministries of reconciliation
- 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - We are called to love others and lay down our lives for them...even if they are our enemies (even those who oppose us)
 - When we give ourselves away that is where life, joy, peace, and HOPE are found (Romans 15:13)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has a truth of God affected the way you think, act live? Give a specific example
2. Have you ever experienced God's Shalom (peace in the midst of difficulty)? What was it like?
3. What does it look like for you to rejoice in suffering? How have you done it in the past? How is God calling you to grow?
4. How is God asking you lay down your life for others, showing Hessed? Be as specific as you can
5. What has God started or continued to teach you about HOPE and its importance through this series?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Titus 3 Tues: John 14 Wed: John 15 Thurs: John 16 Fri: John 17

Worship Set this weekend: Again I Say Rejoice (Israel Houghton) - Awestruck (Grace Worship Original) - Yes & Amen (Housefires) - Your Ways (Grace Worship Original) - Good Good Father (Housefires)