

Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29, 2018 - "Everyday Saints - Week 8" -Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: 1 Peter 3:8-22, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 11:6

- 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

- Last weekend: We are a family on mission: We have been blessed to be a blessing
- When we try to live in Jesus' name there will be opposition/suffering/evil
- If we suffer for righteousness sake, we will be blessed (not necessarily by people but by the Lord)
- Keys to Endure Suffering
 - 1) Hope = knowing God is at work behind the scenes for our good and His glory
 - The world looks like a mess BUT God is weaving beauty out of the mess
 - Romans 8:28 (not all will feel/be good but God is working FOR our good)
 - Not a blind "whatever will be, will be" but trusting that God will work it out
 - 2) Faith = acting with assurance and confidence that God is in control
 - Because we know He is working...we can continue to do the right things
 - Hebrews 11:6
 - Faith says "I can't see the end, but I know who writes the end and He is good"
- Book of Acts: Paul and Silas are beaten and imprisoned for preaching the Gospel
 - In jail they were singing/praying (God had given them hope despite their suffering)
 - The jail cells opened and chains came off BUT they stayed
 - They stayed because they trusted that God was working behind the scenes
 - When we have hope that God is at work, we respond by moving in faith for kingdom impact
- Always ready to give a defense for the hope that we have
 - There is always an audience
 - When we put Christ on display in our suffering and hardship, people notice and may ask why
 - Suffering makes us human and relatable (we can't hide the pain but we can trust God in the pain and people will see)
- Christ is the ultimate example of suffering for doing God's will
 - His suffering, death, burial, resurrection show his commitment to do what God asked Him to do
 - And in baptism we identify ourselves with Christ (under the water with his death, back out of the water with his resurrection)
 - But we also are seated with Jesus next to God right now JESUS IS VICTORIOUS
 - Christ has done the ultimate victorious work everything else is "just peanuts"
 - We can hope in God and move in faith because of what Jesus accomplished

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

1. How are your hope and faith levels? How do you think God might be challenging you in those two areas?
2. How has God lead you to hope in the midst of suffering?
3. Talk about a time when your hope and faith in God have inspired you to make an impact for the kingdom?
4. What are some things you can do to be in step with God growing your hope and your faith?
5. What does it mean to and for you personally that Jesus is victorious?
6. How has God grown you and your view of Him through suffering?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

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

Mon: 2 Corinthians 7 Tues: 2 Corinthians 8 Wed: 2 Corinthians 9 Thurs: 2 Corinthians 10 Fri: 2 Corinthians 11

Songs from the weekend: Mountaintops - The Belonging Co - Awestruck - Grace Original - Tremble - Mosaic MSC - There's No Other Name - Bethel Music - Break Every Chain - Will Reagan & United Pursuit