

"YET HOPE"

Week 2: Hardship

KEY PASSAGES:

Lamentations 3:18-21 "My strength has failed, And so has my hope from the Lord. I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."

Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 42:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

1 Peter 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Romans 5:3-8 We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:18,22-26 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us... we know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:35,37-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any cutesy phrases or trendy new slang words that get under your skin?
2. Would you say you're more of an optimist or a pessimist? What would your spouse, family & friends say you are?
3. Think back through the hardest days of Covid. What gave you real hope then? What felt hopeless?
4. The Roman culture believed hope was foolish and empty, and that the virtues of self-reliance and keeping oneself separated from the distractions of other's suffering in an otherwise meaningless world was key. How do you compare or contrast that with modern day America?
5. Read Ps. 42:5 above. Has there been a time where you prayed (or could/should have prayed) a prayer like that?
6. In light of Romans 8:18,22-26 above, Ethan said in his message "the attainment of an emotionally manageable and pleasant life is not the reason you walk this groaning planet!" Thoughts?
7. Read Romans 8:35,37-39 above. What does this passage communicate to you personally?
8. Romans 8:37 says "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Does this verse give you any tangible hope for tomorrow? Why / why not / how?