

"YET HOPE"

Week 8

KEY PASSAGES:

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

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.

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 8:21 Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Romans 5:2-5 We boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory 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.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.

QUESTIONS:

1. We talked about the social reality of "three degrees of influence"--such as where one person who is cranky can make a co-worker depressed, who in turn brings home a dark cloud to their family, and so on. Have you experienced that reality personally?
2. We've all heard laughter is contagious. What is another positive force or virtue you'd say is also contagious?
3. Share a personal example where you were directly impacted by the 'contagiousness' of someone else's hope, joy, peace or other similar Biblical virtue?
4. "What is in you will come out of you" (see Luke 6:45 above). Share a time you overflowed with something 'less than wonderful' inside of you that spilled onto others.
5. Read the 1 Timothy 6 passage above and then answer the following questions:
 - a. Paul highlights wealth as a false hope, and reminds us those things God has provided for us are for our enjoyment, not our ultimate hope. What are some of those things God has provided to you that you are tempted to make into your false hope?
 - b. doing good (God's definition), being rich in good deeds, being generous, and willing to share with others... these are 'hope in action' steps. Do you excel in any of these? Struggle with any?
6. ACTION: How can/will you spread hope by serving in this church?
7. CONTRIBUTE: Ethan asked everyone to consider sharing answers to any of the following questions this week, in preparation for the 'Hope in Our Midst' message to close out the series this coming Sunday. Send any answers via email to ethan@northhillschristian.church :
 - Where have you seen hope at work in your life?
 - What has God been teaching you about living with His kind of hope?
 - How has Godly hope taken deeper root for you over these weeks?

(NOTE TO LEADERS: as an alternate, consider using those final questions for discussion, taking note of any input, and passing along to Ethan after your group time).