

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“How to Have Hope In Crisis”

Pastor Dan Chun

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, February 10, 2008

Read: John 16:33, Romans 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 4: 8-12

John 16:33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Romans 5:1-5

1Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

2 Corinthians 4: 8-12

8We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 12So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Questions:

1. What did you take away from Eunice's testimony about her miraculous healing? Have you ever experienced or witnessed a miracle? If so, share with the group. How did it impact your life and faith?
2. From the film presented during the sermon and Genesis 37, what do you know about Joseph? What characteristics define him? How would you describe his faith?
3. Read Romans 5: 1-5. Paul writes in verse 2, “And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”. What is this hope that Paul writes about? Why can we rejoice?
4. The passage goes on to describe the value of suffering, how we can even rejoice in suffering. The product of suffering is ultimately hope. Discuss the stages in between that get us to a place of hope. Have you experienced this process or journey in your own life?
5. Why does hope never disappoint us?

6. It is often times far easier to grow bitter over disappointments and suffering than to rise above it. What are the examples you have seen throughout the bible or from your own life of people choosing to be “better not bitter”? How can this choice produce Godly character?
7. “God is in your prison”. How can we find God even in our suffering?
8. Joseph knew that God would save him someday. How did that affect the way he lived and reacted in both the good and bad circumstance in his life? What are lessons we learn from Joseph’s hope?

