

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of August 25, 2019

Abounding in Hope: Hope Overflowing

Pastor Johnson- 8, 10:30 Sanctuary, Pastor Temple 9:15, 10:30 Selah

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: What has given you a lift in life recently?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Romans 15:7-13. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰ Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹² And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." 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.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- In the diverse setting of first century Rome, Paul issued a challenge to God's people in verse 7. What was it and how was it justified?
- How was the mission of Christ revealed in verses 8-9? Why would the people of Israel have a hard time with this?
- What point was the Apostle Paul making in citing so many Old Testament references (2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Isaiah 66:10, Psalm 117:1)?
- How had God's people lost sight of this important truth?

- Verse 12-13 presents Christ as one in whom the Gentiles could place their hope and hope as a central characteristic of His followers. What do you understand this kind of hope to be?
- How would you describe Christ followers who are filled (plero) to overflowing with hope in Him?
- Do you think if others were with you long enough, they would eventually get some of your hope on them? Why or why not?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Daniel 3:9-18.
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego risked their lives and positions of influence in refusing to worship the gods of King Nebuchadnezzar or the image of gold he had made (verse 12). What do you think kept them from changing their minds when the king threatened to throw them in the furnace burning 7x as hot (verse 15)?
- How does their response in verse 16-18 display both courage and hope in the Lord?
- How does hope in the Lord allow for us to eventually come to peace with whatever the outcomes may turn out to be?
- Verses 19-30 describe how their courage and rescue by their God quickly won back the favor of the king and news of their God spread through the land (verse 28-30). How does this story illustrate how hope in the Lord can spread from one person to another in times of danger as well as peace?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- How may God be calling us to cling to hope in Him even in situations of extreme uncertainty and risk? What situations come to mind?
- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Pastor Temple said “We change the world by being people overflowing with hope.” How has the conversation today helped you be in touch with your own hope in Christ?
- Pastor Johnson said that “When we can view the present through the lens of God’s coming kingdom, then we begin to finally live the hope to which we’ve been called.” If you experience challenging times this week, do you believe remembering the promise of salvation and Christ’s return would help you bear them? Why or why not?
- How do you believe your behavior tends to change when you are more firmly connected to hope in Christ?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Pastor Temple said we are to be like “little samplers of Jesus” to show people that He is good. Have you ever thought of yourself as a sampler of Jesus? How may this insight affect your countenance and attitude while at work or in the community this week?
- What person in your life stands out in your mind right now as someone in need of shared hope?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.