

Sermon Discussion Questions

Is There Any Hope?

Romans 8:18-25

April 2, 2017

1. Is it wrong to offer hope (being optimistic about the future) when it is not actually true (like what Captain Earnest J. King gave to those trapped in the S-4 Submarine)?
2. Have you ever ministered to anyone using Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:17 (and v.18)? How are these passages soothing to those who are suffering? What would cause someone to not believe that these words are the truth?
3. One of the fill-in-the-blanks is “God made us to long for what this world cannot offer.” What desires do we have that the world *does* offer and fulfill? What desires do we have that *cannot* be fulfilled in this world?
4. Romans 8:20 speaks of creation being subjected to futility (emptiness) and Romans 8:21 tells us that all of creation is in slavery to corruption. In what ways do you see this to be true? What will being set free from this futility and corruption look like according to Isaiah 35:1-2 and Isaiah 55:12-13? How does this hope inspire you?
5. Have you known two different types of people: those who groan and those who are grateful? Which way do you tip? Discuss in the group what you are grateful for.
 - What will the “redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23) be like in your mind (see 1 Corinthians 15:53-54 and 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 for help)?
6. If there was a sliding scale as to the power of hope in your life to move you from being like Snowball (apathy) to being like Traveler (eager) where would you be? Explain.
7. Do you think Jeremy was accurate when he said that the world around us (those we interact with on a regular basis) are tapping out “Is...there...any...hope?” How can (& How ought) we bring hope to people that is based on the absolute truth of God’s Word?