

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are a People of Hope - Part I  
March 8, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
- Many of us are going through dark, difficult trials and challenges. But we don't have to go through them alone.
- Our culture tells us to "take care of it yourself", "pull yourself up", or "take care of your own problems".
- Jesus says just the opposite. He wants you to know that you're not alone...He's here for you and so is His bride, the church.
  - o Are you facing a difficult time in your life?
  - o Why are you afraid to share it with someone else?
- Discuss the following statements:
  - o *Jesus may not change your circumstances but He can change you in the midst of your circumstances.*
  - o *Sometimes the thing you think is a disadvantage can often become an advantage in your life.*
- Pastor Derwin shared a defining moment he had in high school and how it had a monumental change on his life. He then said that sometimes God puts things in our way so that He can pull something out of us that we don't even know is there. Marinate on this:
  - o *God knows what's coming...so right now you may be in the midst of one of the darkest, most difficult times of your life and you don't know what's coming but God does. He wants to draw things out of you so that He can be glorified in and through you!*
- **Read Romans 5:1-5.**
- Paul uses the word justified over 20 times in the first six chapters of Romans.
- **WE ARE A PEOPLE OF HOPE BECAUSE:**
- **You have been made as righteous as Jesus through faith in Him.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.**
- Your righteousness isn't found in what you do or in who you are but in who Jesus is, what He did for you, and what He wants to do in and through you. You are righteous in Jesus!
  - o How does this truth change the way you look at your actions and accomplishments?
  - o What does 2 Corinthians 5:21 say about what Jesus did with your sins?
  - o What happens when you place your hope in your circumstances vs. placing your hope in Jesus?
- **You have peace with God.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:1b-2.**
- As you discuss this Scripture, focus on each of the following statements:
  - o *...peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...*
  - o *...gained access by faith...*
  - o *...into this grace in which we now stand.*
- Discuss the statement, *faith allows you to dance to the rhythm of God's grace.*

- **You can rejoice in your suffering.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:3a and Hebrews 5:8-9.**
- Jesus knows what it means to be human and to suffer.
  - o What does it mean to “glory” or rejoice in your suffering?
  - o Why is Jesus our perfect High Priest? (HINT: He’s 100% man and 100% God)
  - o Are you in the midst of suffering now? What does it look like for you to rejoice in your suffering?
  - o Take time as a group to allow someone to share their experience of rejoicing in their suffering.
- **In your suffering you will grow in perseverance, character, and hope.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 5:3b-5.**
- The very thing that you thought was sent to destroy you, God uses to make you into the person He wants you to be that brings hope to you and to those around you.
  - o Discuss this statement: *What you think is a disadvantage is an opportunity for Jesus to build His character in us.*
  - o What do you hunger for in your life? Jesus? Fame? Fortune? How is it reflected in the way you spend your time, talents, and treasures?
  - o Your hope is in Jesus and Jesus alone...He’s the One who wants to transform you in the midst of your suffering.
  - o What is God building in you?
- **Soul-Tattoo: Receive prayer.**
- **Close in prayer.**

---

## CALENDAR

### Baptism

April 5, @ TC 521 & TC RH

### Next Steps

TC Group Connect

March 10, @ TC 521

Newcomer Connection

April 12, @ TC 521 & TC RH

Class 1: Who We Are

April 19, @ TC 521