

HOPE DEALERS

OUR HOPE IS IN THE FATHER'S OVERCOMING LOVE

April 3, 2016

1. Read Psalm 33:22 as your prayer.
2. Pastor Derwin said, "Just as your body needs food and water to live, your heart needs hope in order to not just survive, but thrive." How have you seen this to be true in your life?
3. "Our culture needs hope. And church, you are Hope Dealers." How does this statement from Pastor Derwin apply to your day-to-day life?
 - "A Hope Dealer is a blood-bought, eternally loved, Spirit-empowered child of God through Christ, who hopes in God and helps others hope in God so His kingdom will be revealed on earth." What thoughts and emotions are stirred up in you by this definition?
4. Hope Dealers are people of prayer. Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Let's learn about our Father...

How do you become a Hope Dealer?

- A. You must know that God the Father is for you. Believe it.
 - a. Pastor Derwin said, "Let's stop blaming our parents for our lives. Taking responsibility for your life is essential for growth." What do think about this statement?
 - b. Discuss the following points:
 - "As psychologists and researchers, we think the emphasis on supporting ongoing anger and blame of parents is a problem in today's psychotherapy and in the culture at large." (The Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley)
 - Place more faith in Jesus and the goodness He's blessed you with in Himself and His gospel than the inadequacies of your parents.
 - "A father's love contributes as much—and sometimes more—to a child's development as does a mother's love. That is one of many findings in a new large-scale analysis of research about the power of parental rejection and acceptance in shaping our personalities as children and into adulthood." (ScienceDaily.com)
 - c. Read Romans 8:31-32. How do we know that God the Father is for us? What does this mean for your life?
- B. You must know that you're the Father's chosen. This means you're righteous and alive in Christ. Receive it!
 - a. Note: God the Father chose Jesus to be humanity's savior and those who trust in Jesus now participate in Jesus, thus they are God the Father's chosen also (Eph. 1:4). The Hebrew understanding of choseness means beloved. Therefore, all that is true of Jesus is true of those who trust in Jesus.
 - b. Read Romans 8:33-34. What kind of standing do those who trust in Christ have with God? Because Jesus died and rose to new life, we also have His resurrection life indwelling us. What are the practical implications of these truths for our lives?
- C. You must know that you're more than a conqueror in Christ who loves you. Live it.
 - a. Read and discuss Romans 8:35-39.
 - b. How can this make a difference in your life?

Soul-tattoo: Read Roman 8:31-39 every day this week to learn about your Father.

Close in prayer. Let Romans 8:37 be your prayer.