

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 09/17/23

Sermon: Ted Rastatter / Hold onto Hope

Text: Hebrews 6:13-20

Notes/Questions: Jerry Shiver

After encouraging believers to press on to maturity in Christ by living out their faith, the author closes the first half of Chapter 6 in verse 12 warning not to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. This week's message emphasizes that God keeps his promises, so hold on to the hope set before us.

Discussion:

1. Using the personal story of pet rabbits, Milo and Carrots, Ted illustrated our human condition of having little patience when things seem completely bleak. His point was holding on to hope requires a lot of patience. If we're going to press on to Jesus we're going to have to learn to hold on to real hope when things seem and feel very bleak and hopeless. It's really the essence of what it means to practice faithfulness. Read Heb 11:1. discuss the key components of faith contained within this verse (translations will vary). Read 2 Cor 4:17 and discuss how this impacts your perspective on patience, on sanctification.

3 Key reasons you can Hold onto Hope:

God is a Promise-Keeper

Jesus is immovable

Hold onto the story

2. Ted reviewed the many impossible promises God made and fulfilled for Abraham (Gen 21:1-7, 22:7-18). Read verses 13, 17-18. In verse 18, what two things is the author referring to? What about God gives us hope and encouragement in these two things? How do the promises God made to Abraham impact all believers (Rom 4:18-25)? Recognizing the struggles in this life, Ted gave two go-to verses of encouragement in time of discouragement, Rom 8:32 and Jam 1:12. Discuss what God has done to prove his promise of salvation.
3. Read verses 19-20. Ted pointed out that Christianity is unique among the world's religions. In what way is it different? Read Eph 1:4, 2:10, Jn 3:16, Rom 5:10, 1 Cor 3:11, Phil 1:6 and Col 3:1 (lots of verses, sorry). How do these scriptures tie to verse 19-20 and the uniqueness of Christ and Christianity? What is our role in this? Read Eph 1:13-14 and 2 Cor 1:22 and discuss its relationship to verses 19-20.
4. Why must we always keep the Gospel story foremost in our mind? Ted introduced the word eucatastrophe which means when some situation that seems impossible, insurmountable, or unconquerable gives way to sudden victory. This is the story of Jesus crucifixion, death and resurrection. Our faith is not a blind leap or vague sense of optimism. Read Rom 1:6, 1 Pet 1:8-9. How does your own salvation story reflect eucatastrophe or a walk down the road to Emmaus? Share and rejoice!