**Hope For Humanity – Made In The Image of God**

***"When we focus on the sin in another person it makes us take a step back from them.  When we first see them as made in the image of God we want to get closer to see how they reflect God."* Deb Hirsch**

**The Problem Of Hopelessness** ***(Acts 27:13-20)***

• ***Hopeless*** in relation to our inability to fix some of the stuff that we accumulate in life is a lot different than ***hopeless*** when it is applied to the feeling that we are unable to navigate the struggles of life.

 *“In those days you were living apart from Christ. You lived in this world* ***without God*** *and* ***without hope****.”* (Ephesians 2:12)

**Made in the Image of God** – The Basis for Restoring Hope for Humanity

**Gen. 1:26, 27, 31; Gen. 5:1-2; Psalm 8:5**

**Overcoming The Gap** ***(Romans 3:10, 23)***

• Created in God’s image . . . sin enters the world (the gap) . . . restoration or our relationship with God through Jesus on the cross.

• The gap was created because (a) God is not a dictator, and because (b) He gave Adam and Eden the gift of free will. He gave them the right to choose whether or not they would live according to God’s design for their lives, or their own.

• Sin can be defined as choosing to live independently of God. This creates a gap, a separation between us and God.

• We are all born with this *not-so-good nature*, which comes out in *not-so-good attitudes* and in *not-so-good behaviour*. (See Psalm 62:4b; James 3:8-9)

• The good news is that provision was made by God to restore the good nature in us. And Who better to restore the goodness of the image of God in us than God Himself through faith in Jesus?

**Takeaways:**

1. **God Allows Us To Make A Choice** - just like He gave Adam and Eve ***Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:9-10***
2. **God Wants Us To Look, Live And *Be* Like Jesus *(Romans 8:29)***
3. **God Wants The Goodness of His Image In Us To Leak Out**

 ***Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:13b, 14; Tit. 3:1; Tit. 3:8; Psalm 31:19***

There is Hope for humanity, and that hope is found in those who give God room to work in their lives, revealing His image and likeness in them.

Isaiah speaks of the goodness of God ***toward us***, the goodness of God ***in us***, by what He thinks ***of us*** : ***“I have redeemed you****;* ***I have called you by name; you are Mine****!* ***you are precious in My sight****,* ***you are honoured****, and* ***I love you****.”* (Is. 43:1, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a)

**Got Questions? Text 519-893-2951 or email shayne@pathwaycc.ca**

1. Share about your last couple weeks as you catch up with one another. How has God been challenging you or encouraging you in your faith since we last met? What new learnings have you had?
2. Read Acts 27:13-20
3. What stands out to you in this passage? What challenges you or what questions does it raise?
4. During the message we talked about the difference in the two types of hopeless. ***Hopeless*** in relation to our inability to fix some of the stuff that we accumulate in life is a lot different than ***hopeless*** when it is applied to the feeling that we are unable to navigate the struggles of life. Have you experienced the difference between the two kinds of hopeless? Describe what that was like.
5. The second kind of hopeless can lead to hopelessness. Can you explain how this happens? Have you or anyone you know ever entered into this hopelessness? What was that like?
6. Read Genesis 1:24-31.
7. How do these verses point to the fact that all human beings have intrinsic worth and value to God?
8. God’s fingerprint is on our lives. Explain what this means to you?
9. **“God wants us to have a family resemblance to Jesus.”(source unknown)** This “resemblance” includes God’s goodness in us. Can you think of other attributes or characteristics of God/Jesus that also are reflected in us?
10. Read over the Take Aways and read Ephesians 4:22-24
11. Are you spending more time, energy and focus on “putting off the old self”, or “putting on the new self”?
12. What one thing you can do this week to move toward a greater likeness to Jesus?
13. On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you at *doing* good? How can you improve?
14. Spend some time praying for one another as you end your time together this week.