

1940s: During a Time of War a Church of Hope was Born

September 10-11, 2016

INTRODUCTION: Do you remember?

Romans 15:4-6

(Unless otherwise noted, verses are from New International Version 1984)

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hope is a Who

1. CONFIDENT OPTIMISM: God's Hope, deeply rooted in our past, gives power to our future.

- Romans 15:4 ***For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.***
- Jeremiah 29:11 ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

2. HARMONIOUS UNITY: Together God empowers us to bring timeless hope in a trendy world.

- Romans 15:5 ***May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.*** – (New Living Translation)
- Jeremiah 29:7 ***...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.***

3. ACTIVELY WAIT: Because God gives me hope for tomorrow, I will make the most of today.

- Romans 15:6 ***Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*** – (New Living Translation)
- Psalm 33:20, 22 ²⁰ ***We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield...*** ²² ***May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.***

CONCLUSION: Create(d) for Community!

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *Romans 15:4*. What are two Bible stories that inspire your hope in God? Why?

Tuesday: Read *Jeremiah 29:11*. In a trendy world, why is it so vital to hold on to a timeless hope? How has God's work in your past provided a confident hope for your future?

Wednesday: Read *Romans 15:5*. Paul's phrase "complete harmony" reminds us as a church, we sing the same song of Jesus, but we have different notes that we "sing" in developing dynamic disciples. As you look at Christ Lutheran Church, what are some "notes" of the life of Jesus at work that you see? Have you identified the "notes" God created you to play in our community, at our church, and in San Diego?

Thursday: Read *Jeremiah 29:7*. The wise words of this verse remind us to pray for the community where God has placed us. As you look out on San Diego, and La Mesa in particular, where do you sense God calling you to pray for His peace and His prosperity to be at work? Take time to pray for our community as a church and La Mesa, and San Diego county.

Friday: Read *Romans 15:6*. We typically think of waiting as either a passive word (just sitting around) or a frustrating word (passing time until what we are waiting for happens). Hope reminds us to actively wait – to sing the song God has given us to sing, to declare His glory, to be His witnesses. As part of your waiting on God today, think of five specific reasons to praise God for who He is and what He is doing in your life today.

Saturday: Read *Psalms 33:20, 22*. We not only wait in hope, we also put our hope in God. Hope is a who—hope is Jesus. Knowing what Jesus has done in our past, gives power to our present life, and hope for tomorrow. In what area of your life, do you need to wait in hope for the LORD?

Going Deeper:

Book: ***The Hope Quotient: Measure It. Raise It. Never Be the Same*** by Ray Johnston

Next Week: **Psalm 78:4b, 6: 1950s: Advancing Christ from Generation to Generation**