

life groups

NorthStar Church

NorthStar Church
Kingdom Come Part 5
John 16:33
Sept. 2 & 3, 2017
Spencer Barnard

Main Idea

We live in a world of brokenness. Yet, we have hope even in times of great trial, pain, or loss.

Introduction

What sorts of things did you hope for or put your hope in as a child? How have those things changed now that you are an adult, or have they? When you see tragic things happening on a world, national or personal level, where do you see people placing their hope?

Understanding

Pastor Spencer reminded us this weekend that we WILL experience trouble in this world and that most of us were not taught how to deal with it, we just simply faced it. John 16:33 gives us two conflicting ideas, but both are true. Let's break this verse down.

1. "...that in Me you may have peace." Peace is the possession of adequate resources but it also relies on appropriate relationships: in ourselves we have nothing, but in Christ we have all we need (2007, Wiersebe Bible Commentary, p.293) Jesus wants to take our tragedy and show the world where to find hope. What does it look like to you to put your hope in Christ?
2. "in the world you will have trouble..." Trouble comes in all different shapes and sizes. Tragedies can shake your faith and make you wonder if God even exists. Where are some places people turn when this happens? Where do you usually turn, or turn to first?
3. "...I have overcome the world." Every believer is either overcome or an overcomer. We can be overcomers because He has first overcome FOR us. God transforms sorrow into joy, but this principle does not work in our lives unless we believe His promise and pray. (2007, Wiersebe Bible Commentary, p.293) You have two hands: in one hand you have hope in Christ, and in one hand you have trouble from the world. Where will you choose to place your focus? What exactly does that look like for you?

Application

Pastor Spencer reminds us that our hope was placed on the cross. When we face tragedies and hardships in this world, we can choose one of two focuses. The world or Jesus who has overcome the world. Which one leads to peace and why? How can we explain that not only to ourselves, but to someone in the midst of a tragedy?

Prayer

There is joy when we permit God to transform our sorrow into joy. There is joy when God answers prayer. There is joy when we overcome the world. Let there be joy! (2007, Wiersebe Bible Commentary, p.293) Pray for the world and national tragedies occurring right now. Then pray for one another in our personal tragedies and struggles. But also pray for the joy, for He has overcome the world!!