

Taking it Home:

- According to God's Word the Bible, salvation only comes to those who have personally trusted Jesus Christ as Savior. Trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior brings salvation, justification, reconciliation, righteousness, peace and hope of eternal life in those who believe. In the midst of trials and tribulations those who have assurance of their salvation can rely upon God's peace and hope (Romans 5:1-5; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 John 5:1-5). Do you have assurance of your salvation?
- There will always be trials, troubles, and tribulations in this life. Does your faith in Jesus Christ create rest and peace even in the midst of tragedies? If not there are steps you can take to reassure the peace that may be missing: talk to your pastor, an elder in the church, a friend who walks closely with Christ, pray and ask for wisdom from God on the matter (James 1:2-6) or seek the Lord through His Word.
- Create a "Worry" list for everything that troubles you. Scratch off the word "Worry" and replace it with "Prayer." Make your "Worry" list your "Prayer" list and take it directly to God (Phil. 4:6-7).

Related Resources:

- Jerry Bridges, *"Trusting God Even when Life Hurts,"* Navpress, 1988
- Philip Yancey, *"Where is God when it Hurts?,"* Zondervan, 1997
- R. C. Sproul, *"When Worlds Collide: Where is God when Terror Strikes?,"* Crossway Books, 2011
- R. C. Sproul, *"Surprised by Suffering,"* Trust Publishing, 2009

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Hope Beyond the Rubble

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 11, 2011

John 16:33

Quick Review: Jesus stated that throughout life people will suffer trials, troubles and tribulations. The fundamental ground for endurance in trials, troubles and tribulations, that we all face, is the victory of Jesus over the world. Through impending death, Jesus Christ rendered the world's opposition null and void. Those who trust Christ as Savior have a continuing God given "peace" that leads to eternal hope even in the midst of life's tribulations. While the world continues to attack His people, such attacks fall harmlessly, for Christ's victory has already accomplished a smashing defeat of the whole evil rebellious system. Those who rest in the promises of God can have genuine peace, strength and hope during the storms of life.

My Story:

- Where were you on 9-11-2001? Share a brief view of the horror and shock of the tragedy of 9/11 from your perspective. Where did you discover "hope or peace" in the midst of this terrible tragedy? If you didn't find hope or peace, why not?
- How has/did the tragedy of 9/11 personally affect you, your family or people whom you know? Perhaps you have family or friends who have been fighting the War on Terror?
- Describe a past, recent or present trial, tribulation or trouble you have endured. Where did you find the strength to endure such a personal tragedy? Was there ever a moment of peace and hope while going through the trial? Where did it come from?

Growing Deeper:

- Pastor Matthew gave us some very important historical context leading up to John 16:33, which is very important for helping the Bible reader understand the context by which Jesus said "In the world you will have tribulation." What are some of the important historical facts in John 16 leading up to Jesus' "tribulation" statement?
- In John 16:33 Jesus says, "In the world you will have tribulation;" Tribulation – What does that mean? What is implied?
- There are so many terrible things that occur on the earth; is God really in control? What are some of the evidences of God's Sovereign control over ALL the universe? (Cf. **JOB Ch's. 38 & 39; Psalm 33:10-11; 115:3; Isa. 46:10; Prov. 16:9; 19:21; 21:30; Dan 2:20-23; Eph. 1:11; Col. 1:16-17; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 5:11-14).**)
- Does the Bible really say trials, troubles & tribulation is normal? **READ and interpret: John 15:18-21; Acts 14:22; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 2 Cor. 11:23-30; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-13.**
- How should believers respond to trials, troubles & tribulation? (Cf. **Psalm 50:15; 55:22; 56:3-4; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 4:4-7; James 1:2-4; 12; 5:11.**)
- Pastor Matthew stated that there is a very clear Gospel emphasis in John 16:33 that those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior can "take courage," even in the midst of trials, troubles or tribulations because they know Jesus has "overcome" the world. What did Pastor Matthew mean? **READ and Interpret: 1 John 5:4-5**