

IT'S ALL ABOUT CHANGE

Value #3 TEACH Transformationally
Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ezra 7:6-10
Pastor Roy Halberg

→LET'S REVIEW:

- Our **mission/purpose/passion** is to “help people experience the _____ that is found in a life changing relationship with _____”
- Our name, **HOPE CITY CHURCH**, says to our community that this is a place where _____ can be found. So many today live lives without hope...
- Our first value: **LOVE unconditionally** reminds us that if we are to give _____ to others we must be committed to _____ them with a compassionate love that is without judgment or condemnation ... we love God and then love others
- Our second value: **REACH intentionally** reminds us that our mission is to extend God's love to a lost and _____ world. Because Jesus is our _____, we aim to reach every generation with His message of salvation

→TODAY: Our third value: **TEACH transformationally** reminds us that God loves us as we are and His desire is for us to grow in faith and _____ becoming more like Jesus... because Jesus changes lives, we teach scripture to form faithful _____ of Jesus

→THE BIG IDEA: Jesus is in the business of changing lives and so are we

1. THE PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION- Romans 12:1-2; 8:28-29

- Dwight L Moody said: “God did not give us His word for our _____ but for our _____”
- Phillip's paraphrase of Romans 12:1-2 “Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within”
- Will we ever reach this goal of complete transformation to be like Jesus? (1John 3:2)

2. THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

- Picture yourself on a hike on a mountain trail . . . (2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - “teaching”= pointing the way . . . here is the _____ to walk on
 - “reproof”= warning . . . you are off the _____
 - “correction”= direction . . . help you get back on the _____
 - “training in righteousness”= guidance to help you stay on the _____
 - “adequate” & “equipped”= result of getting on and staying on the right _____
- This was the Apostle Paul's ambition and goal (Col 1:28-29)
“... so that we may present every man complete in Christ”
- How important was this to Paul?
“for this purpose also I labor, striving . . .”

1 John 2:14 I write to you young men because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one”

3. THE PRODUCT OF TRANSFORMATION- Ezra 7:6-10

- What does a transformed life look like?
- I'd like to suggest one of my heroes . . . Ezra
 - The reputation he had in the community: “a scribe skilled in the law of Moses” v6
 - The relationship he had with God: “the good hand of His God was upon Him” v6, 9, 28 (also see 8:22 “the hand of our God is favorably disposed to all who seek Him”)
 - The reason for God's hand of blessing on his life v10
He “set his heart” to do three things:
 - ❖ “Study the law of the Lord”
 - ❖ “Practice” the law of the Lord
 - ❖ “Teach” the law of the Lord
- I wonder what God could do with a church full of people whose lives had been so transformed by God's word to be like Jesus and touch people with the hope of the life changing relationship with Jesus . . .

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!

1. What would happen if we valued God's word and gave it the same priority that we give to our phones?
2. Are you excited about spiritual growth? Spiritual maturity? And the process of change/transformation? Do you desire transformation?
 - if not, why not?
 - if yes, what are you doing to actively pursue maturity and transformation?
3. Are you regularly in God's word? Reading, meditating, studying, memorizing?
 - Is there evidence of change/transformation in your life? If not, why not?
4. Are you taking advantage of opportunities the engage in God's word with others?
5. We want to be church that invites people into the hope that is found in a life changing relationship with Jesus
AND
We want to be a church that directs people into God's word in ways that promote maturity as disciples of Jesus who are seeking to live life in obedience to the truth of the scriptures . . . people who listen to Jesus and do what He says
6. Are you in? Is this what you seek? Is it your desire to be transformed?
7. What needs to change in your life to open yourself up to the transformation that God wants to make?
 - your schedule? How you use your time?
 - your priorities? The activities that dominate your life?
 - your companions? Who you hang with?