

## Chasing Hope – Week 2 – Pastor Rob

1. Is there anything you would like change in 2023
2. What kinds of changes do you like? What kinds of changes don't you like?
3. Pastor Rob said that it is loss, not change, that we don't like. When change requires loss our nature is to not like it. Have you seen this to be true in your life? When have you fought against loss?

*Ephesians 4:17-19 - <sup>17</sup> With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. <sup>18</sup> Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. <sup>19</sup> They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.*

4. A Gentile is simply a non-Jew, but it is used synonymously with those who don't know how God wants us to live and therefore don't live godly lives. Was there a time in your life that you lived this way?
5. How is your life different now than it was before you began following Jesus?

*Ephesians 4:20-32 - <sup>20</sup> But that isn't what you learned about Christ. <sup>21</sup> Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, <sup>22</sup> throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. <sup>23</sup> Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. <sup>24</sup> Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. <sup>25</sup> So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. <sup>26</sup> And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil. <sup>28</sup> If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. <sup>29</sup> Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. <sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one.*

6. These verses list a number of ways that we are called to change as we follow Christ. (lust, deception, lying, anger, stealing, foul or abusive language, bitterness, rage, harsh words, slander, all types of evil) Which is the hardest for you?
7. Verses 22-24 above talk about putting off negative behavior and putting on positive, Christ-like behavior. Why are both of these so important?
8. What do you need to 'put off' in your life?
9. What do you need to 'put on'? (This is often the opposite of what we put off)
10. Pastor Rob mentioned two types of change: Behavior Modification & Transformation. What is the difference?

*Romans 4:23 - let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.*

*Romans 12:2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

11. What do these verses tell us about how we change as Christ followers?

12. What are some ways that you can renew your mind or adjust what you think about?
13. Why are our thoughts so important in effecting change in our lives?
14. What do you need to change your mind about in order to think more like Christ?

*Ephesians 1:19-20 - I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power <sup>20</sup> that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.*

15. Transformation requires God's power working in our lives. The above verse tells us that God has given his followers the same power that raised Christ from the dead. How does that make you feel?
16. How do we 'tap into' that power?
17. It is important to know God's will for our lives, what changes He wants us to make? How can we determine this?
18. Is there a gap between what you know and how you live?
19. What is God calling you to do this week in response to this study? (Put off, Put on, Think about, Renew in your mind, Learn, Do)