

*What do I need to do with what I have heard today?*

**May 31, 2015 Sermon Notes**

**Living with a Hope Filled Future Romans 8:18-27**

Doing Life Together

11. Does your longing for God change in intensity from good times to bad times? Which times cause you to long for God most? What might we do to deepen our longing for God in both circumstances?

12. What part does community play as we grow in our longing for God? How might we as members of this Growth Group help each other grow in our longing for God in our present circumstances?

**Prayer Requests**

 GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

May 31, 2015

 THINKING THINGS THROUGH ……….

1. Do you think most Canadians pray? Why or why not? For those who do pray, what sorts of things do you think they tend to pray about?

2. In contrast, what sorts of things should we, as followers of Christ, pray about? What should be our priorities in prayer?

 **Digging Deeper**

**read Psalm 42:1-5.**

3. What does it mean to long for something? When did you last experience a feeling of desperation? What do we tend to use to deaden our longings (distractions, etc.)?

4. How would you describe the psalmist’s condition in these verses? For what was he desperately longing?

5. In the midst of his difficulties, the psalmist’s longings were used against him (v. 3). How might we experience trials that make our longings feel worse?

6. What can we learn from the psalmist’s prayer in these verses in terms of how we respond to difficulty?

7. In order to know God more deeply we must long for Him desperately. Do you thirst for God like the psalmist did? If not, then how can you cultivate a deeper longing for God?

**read Psalm 42:6-11.**

8. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt that God was absent or that you were stalled in your spiritual life? Looking back, how do you now see God working through that difficult circumstance?

9. Compare and contrast the psalmist’s prayer in verses 1-5 with his prayer in verses 6-11. Has his attitude toward God changed? Has his perspective on his circumstances changed?

10. Where does the psalmist place his hope as he is oppressed and mocked by his enemies? How should we pray when we face similar circumstances?

9. How might knowing that your relationship with God is based on His grace and not your good works serve as a source of encouragement to remain faithful for the long run?