

October 18, 2015
Urgent Optimism

I write this *Roots* with a heavy heart. Those of you who were in adult Sunday School last heard about the four different attributes that online gamers displayed in their virtual worlds. The first of those attributes is urgent optimism. In their game world they are filled with ecstatic, unrelenting, uncontrollable hope. But, in the real world many of them don't feel the same indomitable sense of optimism.

To be honest, it isn't just online gamers who are like this. Take "Trekkies" for example. They are an eternally optimistic group of people when they are at their conventions, but the sad fact is that many of them live for those conventions because that is the only place they really feel that sense of hope. But, let's not stop there either! Take your typical "9-to-5er" and what do you see with them? Living for the weekend! They look forward to that ballgame while sitting on the couch, or to the sound of that top being popped on that first ice cold beverage. They are not optimistic in their jobs; they are not optimistic in the greater part of their lives. They are optimistic about living for or through something else, just like those online gamers.

Take a moment to look through your own life. What are the feelings you have about your "regular" life? Are they forever and always optimistic about the eventual outcome, or are you too hoping to live through something else, your children perhaps? Maybe you experience the thrill of life through having all of the drama available on Facebook or your favorite TV show.

Roots

If you "live for the weekend" like this or in any of a million plus other ways, I have news for you. The church has failed you. It has failed you just like it has failed those "gamers" and "Trekkies." If the hope that fills you is no greater than the hope that the Cowboys pull one out today, or the hope that you get off work early, then I have failed you.

In their virtual world gamers have infinite hope, but in this world right now, we Christians should have the unbeatable hope. We should have the hope that never quits. We might mourn the loss of a loved one. We might cry because of a broken heart. We might even lose our temper because of the state of affairs in our lives or the world. But, we never lose hope! Because our hope is in something greater than the outcome of a football game. Our hope is in something greater than beating a dragon in a virtual world. Our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ who defeated sin and Satan and even death in to give you everlasting life.

Take a moment to read Romans 5. There you will find that our hope never fails, because our hope is given to us by the Holy Spirit and holds onto the promise that even though we were messed up by sin beyond anything we can even imagine, Jesus redeemed us. So, don't lose hope! Yeah the whole world is a mess, yeah politics are unreliable at best, but God loves us and has saved us for heaven by his Son's sacrifice and new life. So let's hope, and let's show the world what being urgently optimistic is all about!

Pastor Carl Jh

