

**INTRO**

- Has there been a time when endurance paid off in your life? (e.g. sports, work, studies, relationship). What helped you endure?

**READ**

1 These 1:2-3

As we close out our REAL HOPE series, we look at the close relationship faith, hope and love have and the key to growing in them.

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

A repeated triad in NT scripture is **faith, hope and love**. They are often referred to as the core virtues of Christianity. In today's scripture, Paul gives us an insight into how they are meant to function in our lives by linking them to another important triad: work, labour, endurance (see Jesus reference this in Rev 2:2). So, Paul links them like this:

**Work of Faith****Labour of Love****Endurance of Hope**

We can think of this as a cause—effect relationship: faith, hope and love are meant to be outworked in our lives through work, labour and endurance.

*Qu: in what way/s do you see faith, hope and love dependent on each other?*

Paul reveals the source, reason and motivation for faith, love and hope: "...in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jesus invites us into a new way of being human, and one of the major ways of describing this new humanity in Christ is to pattern our lives after Jesus through faith, hope, love:

**Faith**—trust in and loyal dependence upon God to bring about his good purposes for the world.

**Hope**—confident expectation of divine vindication and renewal of all things as we look back to Jesus' resurrection and forward to his return.

**Love**—self-giving for the benefits of others, patterned after Jesus' love for us.

*Qu: Read Rom 5:3-4. how does this scripture encourage us to rethink hardship in our lives?*

Over and over, the NT connects real hope to both Jesus' resurrection (historical reality) and Jesus' return (future promise). As we look both back and forward to Jesus, we can cultivate a real and enduring hope for today.

*Qu; what is the significance of having our hope anchored in Jesus resurrection and return? What does that mean for you today?*

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Pray for any needs
- Pray for God's Spirit to increase our faith, hope and love alongside our efforts.