**“Better Than We Had Hoped – Pt 7”**

**May-11/12, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]Read **Eph 1:20-21 & Eph 6:10-12.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passage, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. Tom said, *“If you have ever come up against the demonic what will get you far is not logic & reasoning, but prayer, God’s word, the Holy Spirit, and humbly walking in the authority that Jesus has won and gives to his disciples.”*
   1. Have you ever been confronted by a situation which you felt was demonic in nature? If so, what was your response and how did the situation play out?
2. Tom taught, *“Jesus’ ascension gives us access to God’s throne for mercy and grace.”* 
   1. Is going to God’s throne for mercy and/or grace your first response to the challenges you face in your life? If not, what is? What does your response reveal about the strength of your belief that you have access to God through Christ?
3. Tom shared, *“The incarnate Jesus was limited by time and space. He couldn’t be with each of his followers at once. But the Holy Spirit can. His empowering presence is available to all Jesus’ followers everywhere at the same time.”*
   1. How does the reality of always having the presence of the Holy Spirit, impact or inform your faith for daily living?
4. Tom said, “*Jesus’ ascension reminds us that His reign is already begun, but not yet fully completed. He is presently seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, but one day will return to earth to fully establish His kingdom and put His enemies under his feet.”*
   1. Does knowing that Jesus will be returning to fully establish His Kingdom and crush His enemies help when you are in the midst of a trial? Why or why not?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray.
* Pray for fruitfulness in people’s lives through the, “Better Than We Had Hoped” series.
* Pray for those who made first-time commitments or recommitments to Jesus at Easter.