**Title:**NEED: Moving Our Greatest Need to Our Greatest Want

**Scripture:**Romans 5:1-11

**Speaker:** Jeff Terrell

**Date**: December 2, 2018

**Big Idea:**When our greatest need becomes our greatest want we are ready to receive the greatest gift!

**Outline**

1.  The Gift: Enjoy True Peace (1)  
2.  The Want: Ensure True Hope (2-5)  
3.  The Need: Embody True Desperation (6-8)  
4.  The Offer: Experience True Reconciliation (9-11)

***WHAT DID YOU LEARN?***

1. Share some of your favorite Christmas gifts. Why were they memorable? How did you get use and enjoyment out of them? How does the gift of true biblical peace impact your life? How true peace influence your actions in life?

2. Let’s start with understanding what reconciliation is. Give some real-world examples that can work to define what reconciliation is? What does it mean that sinners can be *reconciled* to God? That is a pretty amazing gift, isn’t it? Consider gifts given on Christmas morning…at what point does a *gift* become a *possession*? Has reconciliation moved from being a gift to a possession in *your*life?

***HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?***

**Confess**

1. What wants in life have you elevated to as “need”? There are numerous things in life that are given by God to be enjoyed, but those things can quickly become the god in our life. What things that are gifts from God, but can quickly dominate our focus and dictate our happiness? What are true needs that should be the source of our joy and help us worship God?

2. How are you viewing your current suffering? How is God using your suffering to build your capacity to endure? What are practical ways to rejoice in suffering that will help you endure?

**Renew Your Mind**

1. What are some “hopes” you currently have? How would your life change or be impacted if those hopes were fulfilled? How does hope affect the way you live today? What does verse 5 mean: "hope does not put us to shame” and how can that affect the way you process the hopes you shared at the beginning?

2. What is something you accomplished in your life that took hard work or commitment or the application of your own personal skills? Well done! Are you able to take ultimate credit for *any*part of that accomplishment? (trick question!) How is that a trick question? (Try to answer and *then*look at 1 Corinthians 4:7.) So, every human being exists in a position of total desperation. That is the *concept*. How do you take the *concept* and turn it into a *reality* in your life?

***Live It Out***

Think about others who are suffering this year. It could be someone who has lost a love one this year. It could be someone who is experiencing financial hardship. How can you provide them a gift for them? Make a plan to give a gift of your time, service, and finances to help someone who is suffering this year. Use this opportunity to tell them of the true need, the need of Jesus Christ in their life.

***READ AHEAD***

Read Isaiah 9:6-7 - how have each of the names prophesied for the “Son” of this passage applied to or been lived out by Christ?