

BEST. DAY. EVER.

JESUS GIVES ULTIMATE HOPE

Wednesdays | 6:30-7:30 pm

HOPE.....The Future Fuels the Present

REST.....Freed, Not Extinguished

PEACE...Justice Secures Peace

LIFE.....We Come back Better

JOY.....Jesus Makes All Things New

SEVEN  RIVERS

CHURCH

The Villages



HOPE

The Future Fuels the Present

LESSON 1



HOPE : The Future Fuels the Present

The Importance of Knowing Your Future HOPE

You and I are unavoidably and irreducibly hope-based creatures. We are controlled how we live now by what we think will happen later. Christian hope has to do with the ultimate future, not the immediate. - Tim Keller

A Contrast in HOPE

- A. Hope is Future.
- B. Hope is an Ultimate Longing.
- C. Hope is Specific.
- D. Hope is Certain.

Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither.

C. S. Lewis

HOPE in the Bible is Hope in a PERSON.

***Hope* refers to our confident expectation of the fulfillment of our deepest longings and desires for the future through the person of Jesus and his work on our behalf.**

His Presence

I shall rise from the dead. . . . I shall see the Son of God, the Sun of Glory, and shine myself as that sun shines. I shall be united to the Ancient of Days, to God Himself, who had no morning, never began. . . . No man ever saw God and lived. And yet, I shall not live till I see God; and when I have seen him, I shall never die. - John Donne

His Promises

Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God. . . . Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come. - J.I. Packer

Hebrews 6:17-19 - So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.

Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made. - R.C. Sproul

His Resurrection

- a. He Paid for Sin.
- b. He Conquered Death.
- c. He Transforms Our Brokenness.
- d. He Upgrades our Previous State.

The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.

Basil Hume

When somebody predicts their own death and resurrection and pulls it off, we should go with whatever that person says. - Andy Stanley

How do we know Jesus's Resurrection Happened?

- A. The Word of God
- B. The Inner Testimony of the Holy Spirit
- C. Historical Testimony

Gary Habermas, Minimal Facts Argument

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. The sincerity of his immediate followers
3. The conversion of James, the brother of Jesus
4. The conversion of the Apostle Paul
5. The empty tomb

The fact that dead people do not ordinarily rise is itself part of early Christian belief, not an objection to it. The early Christians insisted that what had happened with Jesus was precisely something new; was, indeed, the start of a whole new mode of existence, a new creation. The fact that Jesus' resurrection was, and remains, without analogy is not an objection to the early Christian claim. It is part of the claim itself.

N.T. Wright

According to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history. - Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Harvard Law Professor

It may be taken as historically certain that Peter and the disciples had experiences after Jesus' death in which Jesus appeared to them as the risen Christ. - Gerd Ludemann, Atheistic New Testament Scholar

In short, I didn't become a Christian because God promised I would have an even happier life than I had as an atheist. He never promised any such thing. Indeed, following him would inevitably bring divine demotions in the eyes of the world. Rather, I became a Christian because the evidence was so compelling that Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead. That meant following him was the most rational and logical step I could possibly take. - Lee Strobel, Author of *The Case for Christ*

What is God's PROMISE for our FUTURE?

"No one has yet believed in God and the kingdom of God, no one has yet heard about the realm of the resurrected, and not been homesick from that hour, waiting and looking forward joyfully to being released" to be with him.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

We are included in his promises by BELIEVING

If you knew what you were saved from, you would die of fear, but if you knew what you are saved for, you would die of joy.

Martin Luther

Our FUTURE Hope Fuels Our PRESENT Lives

1 John 3:2-3 - Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

COMFORT

Grief

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

Hardship

I still can hardly believe it. I, with shriveled, bent fingers, atrophied muscles, gnarled knees, and no feeling from the shoulders down, will one day have a new body, light, bright, and clothed in righteousness—powerful and dazzling. Can you imagine the hope this gives someone spinal-cord injured like me? Or someone who is cerebral palsied, brain-injured, or who has multiple sclerosis? Imagine the hope this gives someone who is manic-depressive. No other religion, no other philosophy promises new bodies, hearts, and minds. Only in the Gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope. - Joni Eareckson Tada

Disappointment

Psalm 42:5 - Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

EMPOWERMENT

Mission

Temptation

FREEDOM

Generosity

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

How do I EXPERIENCE this kind of hope?

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you, a heart
to seek you, wisdom to find
you, conduct pleasing to
you, faithful perseverance
in waiting for you, and a
hope of finally embracing
you. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you
trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 15:13