



People of Hope September 6, 2020

“When we know who we are, we can act rather than react.” —Pastor Rob O’Neal

Icebreaker: How would you define “hope;” what does it mean to “put your hope” in something?

Over the past few weeks, we've looked at some of the implications of belonging to God: having a relationship with Him, persevering, loving, forgiving, serving, sharing Christ, having a perspective of hope. This week, the last in the series, we'll see the power and results of living as people of hope.

Read Psalm 33:17–22:

The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

[Q] The psalmist said the war horse is a false hope for salvation. What sorts of deceptive hopes for life do people today tend to rely on? What do they hope these things will provide?

Hope: a confident expectation of the fulfillment of something desired or promised.

Hope Fueled Paul

Read Acts 14:8–20.

[Q] From what Paul wrote in Romans 5:1-5 and 1 Timothy 4:10, *why* would he get up and go back into Lystra (Acts 14:20)? Where did he set his hope?

Romans 5:1–5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

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[Q] According to the following passages, how should hope affect the pursuit(s) of your life? Be specific.

Titus 2:11–13

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

1 John 3:1–3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

[Q] What do people of God have due to hope? Read the verses below.

Psalm 31:24

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Hope gives us power to live courageously, to be all God has called us to be in Christ.

Apply

[Q] If someone questioned whether your hope in God was just an escape from reality, what would you say?

[Q] While God has provided a sure hope in Jesus Christ, our gaze easily slips away from Christ onto things which can't ultimately provide the salvation they promise. How can you keep your eyes fixed on Christ more consciously and consistently this week?

[Q] How can you help those around you to do the same? Who needs to hear about your hope in Christ?