

Hope in the Darkness

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Romans 8:18-25

December 4, 2022

Snap shot:

Our hope in the darkness is found in God's perfect plan of redemption

I. Our hope is in the plan of the Father (8:18–22)

II. Our hope is in the presence of the Spirit (8:23a)

III. Our hope is in our redemption by the Son (8:23b)

IV. Our hope in the darkness (8:24–25)

Connect

What is your past experience with Advent? What do you desire to learn this advent season?

Study

Point 1: Our hope is in the plan of the Father (8:18–22)

READ Genesis 3:1–24

1) What brings about the darkness that enters the world? How does the Lord respond? How do we see God's grace in his judgment over all of creation? How do we see God's grace in His clothing Adam and Eve? How do we see God's grace in His removing Adam and Eve from the garden?

2) What are some practical ways you can develop your hope in the plan of the Father this advent season? How can you help others remember the hope of Christ this advent season? What in your life has the tendency to hinder your hope? How can the group be praying for you in this area? How can you implement hope in the plan of the Father into your Christmas season?

Point 2: Our hope is in the presence of the Spirit (8:23a)

READ Romans 8:1–27

3) Name the specific ways the Holy Spirit is present in the life of the believer. In each area found in the previous question, discuss how the Spirit gives us hope in this present life and in the life to come. (For example: The believer can walk by the Spirit; present hope - we can live according to God's Spirit; future hope - we will completely walk in the Spirit apart from sin) How can you implement hope in the presence of the Spirit into your Christmas season?

Point 3: Our hope is in our redemption by the Son (8:23b)

READ Romans 8:12–25

4) How does Paul discuss our adoption presently and then in the future? In what way does our current state of adoption give us hope for our future state of adoption? How does our future adoption as sons correspond with the redemption of our bodies?

5) In what ways does hoping in our future redemption help us in this present time? How can you implement hope in our redemption by the Son into your Christmas season?

Point 4: Our hope in the darkness (8:24–25)

READ Romans 8:24, 25; 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

6) What does Paul mean when he says, “In this hope we are saved”? How do the two passages discuss the seen and the unseen? Why is this important?

7) What does it look like to patiently wait for our hope to be revealed? How does our present affliction prepare us for “an eternal weight of glory”? How can you implement hope in the darkness into your Christmas season?

A Puritan prayer from *The Valley of Vision*:

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly,
[You have] brought me to the valley of vision,
where I live in the depths but see [you] in the heights;
hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold
[Your] glory.

Let me learn by paradox
that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells,
deepest wells,
and the deeper the wells the brighter
[Your] stars shine;

Let me find [Your] light in my darkness,
[Your] life in my death,
[Your] joy in my sorrow,
[Your] grace in my sin,
[Your] riches in my poverty
[Your] glory in my valley.

Memorize & Meditate

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

Preparing for next week

Read: Isaiah 50:10–11; Isaiah 26:3; Luke 1:79; John 14:27

Ask questions of the text

Pray through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.