

- John 10:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. NIV - ... have life, and have it to the full.
- Psalm 16:11 (NLT) ¹¹ You will show me the way of life,

Three Important Indisputable Facts:

- I. Fact: Jesus of Nazareth Lived
- II. Fact: We die
- III. Fact: Jesus spoke as an authority about life in this life; and life in eternity

These truths cause us to seek who Jesus. Seekers find Him to be Lord and Messiah!

Your Options On Jesus:

- A. Ignore Him (& Eternity)
- B. Act Like He's Your Lord
- C. Surrender To Him As Lord

Session#6 Title: Looking Forward in Real Hope!

God has a plan for abundant life! That plan for life includes a Real Hope as you face the future!

Christians have Real & Certain Hope about the future based on proof of God's power in the past and proof of God's power in the present!

Romans 15:13 (NLT) ¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) ³¹ but those who hope (*NLT-wait, NASB-trust*) in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

How Do We Have Real Hope?

- A. Know What God Has Done
- B. Know What God is Doing
- Then...
- C. Focus on His Promises

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT) *Living the New Life* Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Seven Hopes For Christ Followers

1. Our Hope is in Jesus ! (Eyes on Jesus!)

Matthew 14:24–33 (NLT) ²⁸ Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

²⁹ “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?” ³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NLT) *God’s Discipline Proves His Love*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. **And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.** ² **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. **Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross**, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. so that you may not grow weary in your souls and give up.

- Jesus placed his eyes on the future, we should too.
- We are to keep our eyes on Him first, and the future too.

2. Our Hope is in Heaven! (Eyes on Heaven!)

John 14:1–3 (NLT) *Jesus, the Way to the Father* “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

Disciples then, and followers now given **a very clear hope to reside in our heart**, Jesus prepares a place for us.

Revelation 21:3–4 (NLT) ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ **He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”**

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) ⁹ That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

John 3:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but **have eternal life.**

Luke 23:43 (NLT) ⁴³ And Jesus replied, “I **assure you, today** you will be with me in **paradise.**”

Matthew 6:19–21 (NLT) *Teaching about Money and Possessions*¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

3. Our Hope is in Eternity! (Eyes on Eternity!)

Psalms 23:6 (NLT) ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Some of the words to amazing grace (full verse)

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we'd first begun.

John 5:24 (NLT) ²⁴ “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

4. Our Hope Should Be In Rewards! (Eyes on Rewards)

Matthew 6:20–21 (NLT) (back up)

- **Matthew 5:12:** "Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you".
- **Matthew 6:4:** "Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you".
- **Colossians 3:23–24:** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward".
- **2 Corinthians 5:10:** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad".
- **1 Corinthians 3:14:** "If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward".

5. Our Hope Should Be in People Together In Heaven! (Eyes on Family, Friends, Others - Salvation!)

John 14:2–3 (NLT) ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

6. Our Hope Should Be In Fulfilled Purpose! (Eyes on Fulfilled Purpose!)

Your gifts – applied to people and ministry and situations.

2 Timothy 4:1–5 (NLT) I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. ³ For a time is coming when people will no longer

listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

7. Our Hope Should Be A Godly Legacy! (Eyes on Your Legacy!)

Your life (during your time being surrendered to Christ) should be an example!

2 Timothy 4:6–8 (NLT) ⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

Powerful Conclusion:

I. Go Through Life Looking Up, Not Around!

Foundational Verse Colossians 3:1–3 (NLT) *Living the New Life*

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

II. Focus My Life On Unseen, Not The Seen!

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

III. Focus My Heart On Faith, Not Fear!

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT) ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing. (*live by faith, not by what we literally see*)

John 14:1,2,6 & 27 (NLT)

2 Timothy 4:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

Delivers us or brings us into His Heavenly Kingdom! Promised.

God has a plan for abundant life! That plan for your abundant life includes a Real Hope as you face the future!

Very clear Jesus worked to instill real hope to disciples!

And very clear the ministry of Christ to his follower is to instill real hope as we move into future!

Are you ready to give your life to Jesus? ARE YOU READY FOR REAL HOPE?

"Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."