

Advent: Hope

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SERMON NOTES

Advent Hope in Christ

In Christ God has offered us:

- Unconditional Love
- Unquenchable Joy
- Unbounded Hope
- Unshakeable Peace

How can we experience this unbounded hope?

“While modern connotations include shades of uncertainty associated with a desired outcome (akin to ‘wishful thinking’), the biblical understanding of hope is a much deeper concept that contributes significantly to the worldview of biblical faith. Included are an expectation of the future, trust in attaining that future, patience while awaiting it, the desirability of the associated benefits, and confidence in the divine promises.”

- Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible

Isaiah 40:27-31

Advent Hope in Christ

1. What is the *foundation* of our hope? (v. 27)
2. What is the *object* of our hope? (v. 28-31a)
3. What are the *effects* when our hope is placed in God? (v. 31)

“As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is a mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength.”

- G.K. Chesterton

What is hope?

Hope is the expectation of a good not yet fully realized. In the biblical sense, hope is waiting expectantly as God accomplishes His purposes and fulfills His promises.

“We need to understand the difference between optimism and hope. Optimism often arises out of denial of the real facts; hope, however, persists in spite of the clearly recognized facts because it is anchored in something beyond.”

- Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

“When we look at the true God, and wait on Him, we find that, when there is mounting up to be done, we can do it with eagles’ wings; when there is running to be done, we can do it without weariness; and when there is walking to be done, we can do it — worthy of the Lord — without fainting.”

- N.T. Wright, *Small Faith — Great God*

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable, so that 30 years later He might hang on a cross.”

- J.I. Packer

“Christianity’s unsurpassed offers: a meaning that suffering cannot remove, satisfaction not based on circumstances, a freedom that does not hurt but rather enhances love, an identity that does not crush you or exclude others, a moral compass that does not turn you into an oppressor, and a hope that can face anything, even death.”

- Tim Keller, *Making Sense of God*

“We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small, awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown.”

- John Calvin

“Christians are called to enter and act in the arena of history, with all the blood, sweat, and tears that such engagement demands. They must have one eye on the world and their times, and another on a hope beyond history.”

- Os Guinness, *Carpe Diem Redeemed*

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- 1 Peter 1:3-5