

Advent: Hope

Pastor Jim Thomas

December 13, 2020

SERMON NOTES

“Advent” - arrival or appearance

Advent

- Unbounded love
- Unquenchable joy
- Inextinguishable hope
- Unshakable peace

Advent Hope in Christ

What is hope?

Hope is the expectation of a good not yet realized.

“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*

Luke 1:1-25

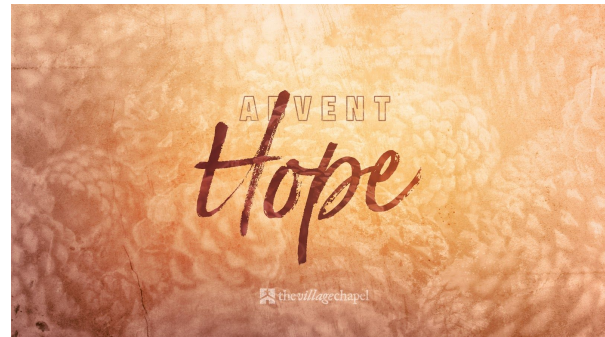
1. Hope doesn't mean the total absence of suffering, difficulty or despair.
2. The fact that we experience disappointment or suffering doesn't mean God has forgotten us.
3. Hope arises as we focus our attention on Christ, on His character, and on His promises through Bible study, meditation, prayer and worship.

“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

“Elizabeth's barrenness and advanced age - a double symbol of hopelessness - became the means by which God would announce to the world that nothing is impossible for Him.”

- Charles R. Swindoll



“Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.”

- Oswald Chambers

“I’ve learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse.”

- Philip Yancey

“Life between Jesus’ two Advents (1) deepens our sadness over the brokenness in God’s world and ourselves; (2) fuels our humility and joy in response to what God’s done about it in Jesus; and (3) intensifies our hope and commitment to missional living until the Day of all things new.”

- Scotty Smith

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity - hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory.”

- J.I. Packer