



**ReDiscover Christmas
Finding Hope in Our Uncertainty
Luke 2:22-35**

**Dr. Jimmy Stewart | Eric Smith | Ben Sticker
November 29, 2020**

Sermon Summary

Our hope can fade through circumstances (external - election results, downturn in the economy, relationships, health) and doubt (internal - concerns about death, worry, fear, anxiety). However, “Biblical hope is not a mere desire for something good to happen. It is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. Biblical hope has moral certainty in it. When the word says, ‘Hope in God!’ (Psalm 42:5) it does not mean, ‘Cross your fingers.’ It means, to use the words of William Carey, ‘Expect great things from God.’” (John Piper) ReDiscover Hope this Christmas Season by trusting Jesus for everything, in everything.

Diving Into The Message

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Psalm 42:5-6

Hope: Confident Expectation

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Luke 2:25

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:23-25

Hope Sees Beyond

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Luke 2:26

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

Romans 8:24

Hope Clears Doubts and Questions

And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God

Luke 2:25

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

Romans 15:13

Hope Does Not Disappoint

he took him up in his arms and blessed God, and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:22-35

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:1-5 NASB

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Life Application Questions

1. Do you remember a time when you hoped for something you didn't realize? Tell the story.
2. Do you remember a time when your hope in the Lord was stronger than it is today? What has changed? The Lord? You? Your circumstances? Your outlook?
3. Where does your hope come from? Self? Others? The Lord? His Word? Your Salvation?
4. Does your hope ever fade? What are you doing when it fades?
5. What can you do to increase your hope?
6. What can you do and/or say to help others this Christmas season increase their hope?
7. What would be different in 2021 if your hope increased every day? What would you need to do every day for your hope to increase?