

**There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays: HOPE**  
*Psalm 130:1-8; Jeremiah 29:4-14; 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16*

Hope (according to Google) "is a feeling of expectation and \_\_\_\_\_ for a certain thing to happen." Hope gives us something to live for and unlocks something powerful inside us. Consider \_\_\_\_\_ hope for a BB gun:

It endlessly occupied and \_\_\_\_\_ his mind.  
It inspired \_\_\_\_\_ ways to realize his hope.  
It made him \_\_\_\_\_.  
It fueled a \_\_\_\_\_ persistence.  
It helped him face challenges with \_\_\_\_\_.

For these reasons and more, humans need \_\_\_\_\_. Life is too \_\_\_\_\_ without it! We will hope for anything just to have hope.

In fact, no matter what we believe about the \_\_\_\_\_, it shapes our behavior in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Many believe we are all just cosmic \_\_\_\_\_ awaiting a final cosmic accident that will turn us into stardust. When people think they have nothing to live for, they live in the present in an incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ way. In fact, many Christians are essentially \_\_\_\_\_ if we consider the way they live and compare it to unbelievers.

We have to have something to \_\_\_\_\_ for (hope) to shape our life. But all of those things \_\_\_\_\_ us. Consider \_\_\_\_\_ once again.

Even \_\_\_\_\_ had hope! He had more certainty about it and a crucial role in realizing it, but still had hope! \_\_\_\_\_!

We need the hope of Jesus; the hope that someone \_\_\_\_\_ us, is looking out for us, and has the \_\_\_\_\_ to bring things together for good, and ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ over our enemies.

As we celebrate and \_\_\_\_\_ (hope! the arrival of Christ at Christmas we remember God's faithfulness to his \_\_\_\_\_. This helps us celebrate and anticipate (hope!) his promise to send \_\_\_\_\_ again to fully and finally complete his work of rescue and restoration.

So, why do we often feel as if the powerful nature of hope is \_\_\_\_\_ from our lives? Why doesn't it feel real to us? Where is the energy, bravery, focus, and resilience? It's wasted on false hopes.

How do we regain it? Like so many other things, we must \_\_\_\_\_ other hopes and \_\_\_\_\_ the only hope that can get us through this life. How?

Know your \_\_\_\_\_. He wants you to move you to \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ on the hope of Christ.  
Plan ways to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with it.  
\_\_\_\_\_ your hope with others.  
\_\_\_\_\_ for it!  
\_\_\_\_\_ as if it is here.

When was the last time you were really looking forward to something? \_\_\_\_\_

Did it deliver what you expected? \_\_\_\_\_

Looking back, was it worth the effort and energy it consumed? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think God may have been trying to teach you? \_\_\_\_\_

How is God calling you to hope in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_