

# “Jesus Came to Give us Hope”

## Christmas Eve 2015

### 1 Peter 1:3-9

#### Discussion Qs

1. What or whom do people put their hope in if not God?
2. What is the greatest source of hope in your life?
3. How has your relationship with God influenced your hope?
4. How has faith in Christ changed your life?

**intro.** In what or whom do people put their hope in if not God? *What is the greatest source of hope in your life?* The more reliable the basis of hope the greater your hope is. What if you could discover a reliable hope that can transcend your circumstances?

**Subject:** Jesus came to give us a living hope [advent series re love, peace + hope]

**Object:** Receive the hope of God

#### I. The hope of God [3-9]

##### A. Who is this God? [3] Blessed *be* the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Praise to God: **Blessed *be*** He is the true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and, Jacob. And, He is the **Father of the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ**

2. Know in whom/what your hope is, the more reliable the source the greater the hope

*\* When our sons were growing up I did all I could to come through on every promise to them. Not only did I want them to trust me, but to know that they could trust God*

*\* story of a little boy who was drawing a picture & his mom said, “What are you drawing?” And he said, “God.” And his mom said, “Sweetie, nobody knows what God looks like.” And the boy replied, “They will when I’m done!”*

3. You cannot know God apart from the Bible. It reveals God’s love, grace, & peace, as well as holiness, justice, & majesty. You need to know the Bible to know God; and the better you know God the greater your hope will be.

##### B. Who is this hope given to? [3] Those who are begotten again of God

1. What does begotten again mean [3]? **Who according to His abundant mercy has**

**begotten us again:** Need a spiritual birth for spiritual life & to experience this hope. **Note:** All people are God’s offspring, but only believers are God’s children [Jn. 1:12]

*\*\* The promises I made to my sons have no reason to inspire true hope for your kids, because they are not in the same relationship with this father.*

2. Faith is rooted in trust, and trust flows from relationship.

3. How has your relationship with God influenced your hope?

### C. What's so special about this hope? [3-5]

**1. A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [3]:** Hope is in Jesus [the Messiah] who conquered death as proven by the resurrection. No Easter without Christmas, but no hope without Easter ...

ii. There is no other religious leader, or person who can support with overwhelming evidence a claim to rise from the dead. Because our Savior is alive we have this hope.

iii. We live this hope – faith rejoices in advance because it trusts the ultimate outcome

**2. A guaranteed inheritance [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you:** life today + eternity in the Presence of God where you will be rewarded for all you did motivated by love for God & His glory. Can't be spoiled or diminished. It is reserved & kept for you in heaven

*\*My sons don't have a guaranteed inheritance from me, but fortunately do from God*

**3. A gift from God through faith in the Messiah your Savior [5] who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time:** power of God is the divine side & faith is man's side

i. Faith in the Messiah's sacrifice on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. Without trust, faith is often a thinly disguised hope. We hope things turn out right, but not sure.

ii. **God's mercy [3]:** don't deserve God's hope for today or eternity it's a gift from God

### D. How does faith in Christ change your life? [6-9]

**a. Real faith gives hope despite suffering [6] In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while if need be, you have been grieved by various trials:** when struggling it seems to last way longer than a little while, but compared to eternity – even a whole lifetime is just a little while ... [Peter ref suffering at least 15 x in this letter]

i. **Various trials:** health, financial, emotional, relational – this world is not heaven

ii. *The problem:* life can seem hopeless. No greater hope than God. Nothing else can give reliable hope in this life + beyond this life ... and this life can seem hopeless.

**b. Real faith is revealed by hope in God during suffering [7] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ:** real faith is demonstrated by response to trials/tests

**c. Real faith produces love for Christ [8], joy [6,8] and salvation [9] 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory: 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls:**

**Conc.** Opportunity to receive (or renew) the hope of God in Jesus this Christmas

## **Family style service**

Invite Christmas Eve guests to consider how Christ's birth gives them hope and ask them to take a moment at the end of the service to capture their thoughts and write them on fabric banners that will be in the foyer. We plan to display one banner at each campus for the next couple of weeks as we consider the greatest gift of hope this Christmas, Jesus.