

Advent Sunday ~Sunday, November 27, 2016

From Heaven Above: The Gift of Hope

1 Peter 1:3-12

We live in a world where people are desperately searching for _____
—something _____ themselves—that can offer them _____
encouragement and strength for their lives.

There's only one place to find true hope, and that's _____.

“Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.” (Psalm 33:22)

HOPE VS. OPTIMISM

Hope isn't the same as _____ thinking or _____.

Optimism is _____. It is based on the way we _____.

Hope is _____. It is based on _____ about God.

Optimism is trusting in _____ and your own abilities.

Hope is trusting in _____ and His abilities.

Optimism is positive thinking; hope is passionate trusting.

hope = *elpis* = “to hope; to anticipate with pleasure; to welcome; trust;
_____ ; and expectation of what is _____ and
_____.

God made it **very** clear that _____ was the One for whom the world had
been watching, waiting, and hoping.

However, as we all know only too well, hope isn't _____, and
sometimes our circumstances can seem anything but hopeful.

**How do we sustain hope in Jesus in the midst of disappointment and
difficulty, challenge and adversity?**

How do we keep from being completely overwhelmed by the trials of life?

How do we maintain an attitude of hope in the midst of suffering

5 UNCHANGEABLE TRUTHS THAT CAN BRING HOPE

#1. We can have hope because God _____ us before we chose Him.

“You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a
holy people by his Spirit.” (1 Peter 1:2)

Our salvation wasn't an _____—long before we chose God, He chose
us—it was all His _____.

“We loved Him, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

Understanding this simple truth—that God chose me and has a _____
for my life—can bring me great _____ and hope.

“Nothing can separate us from God's love.” (Romans 8:31-39)

#2. We can have hope because God always shows us _____.

“All honour to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his
boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again.” (1 Peter 1:3)

God's grace is _____ and unmerited—we can't earn or buy it—it's a
_____ gift. Salvation isn't based on what we do—we can't make God love
us anymore or any less than He does right now—salvation is based on God's mercy,
not on our _____.

“He saved us not because of the righteous things we've done, but because of his
mercy.” (Titus 3:5)

“...through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with
everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.”
(Colossians 1:20)

God made peace with us through the _____ of Jesus and we can have
hope, because no matter how much we mess things up, He'll always respond in _____.

We've been given the privilege of being born _____—into a spiritual _____
_____. And one of the great things about being part of a family is you can
ask for what you _____.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11)

#3. We can have hope because God has secured our _____.

“Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from
the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in

heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.” (1 Peter 1:3-4)

6 IMPORTANT POINTS

- “Now we live with a wonderful expectation.” The ESV translates this as **“living hope.”** The hope we have in Jesus is _____–it’s for today; in this moment–it’s not just about some _____ event.
- **“inheritance”** An inheritance is something you get when you belong to a _____–it’s like a birthright; a legacy that’s passed on through a will or bequest. Because we’re a part of His family, God has an inheritance for us that provides an _____ hope that far outlasts this _____.
- **“kept in heaven for you”** Once we accept Jesus, our salvation is _____–it’s kept for us in heaven.
- **pure = *amiantos*** =
God’s promise of salvation is _____.
- **“undefiled”** It can’t be _____.
- **“Beyond the reach of change and decay.”** Unlike a flower, our salvation will never lose it’s _____.
God has already written the final chapter of our lives–and once we’ve put our hand in the hand of Jesus, we _____!

“There is hope for your future, says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 31:17)

#4. We can have hope because God’s power will _____ us.

“And God, in his mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him.” (1 Peter 1:5)

protect = *phroureo* =

It is the same word as _____.

God is always _____ over us–and although things will come into our lives that threaten us, He promises to protect us until His gift of salvation is _____ in us.

“That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life.” (John 6:47)

#5. We can have hope because God is preparing us for _____.

“For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.” (Philippians 1:29)

According to Paul, it’s a privilege to _____ for Christ –Why? Because in order to share in Christ’s glory, we need to share in His _____–and God uses everything that happens in our lives to _____ us for eternity.

“So be glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while. These trials are only to test your faith and show that it is strong and pure. Your faith is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold–and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

4 THINGS ABOUT THE TRIALS OF LIFE

- Trials are _____.
- Trials are _____.
- Trials are _____.
- Trials have _____.

3 THINGS GOD IS DOING

- He’s _____ our faith; “These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure.”
- He’s _____ our motives; “Your faith is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold.” God is more interested in our _____ than our _____.
- He’s preparing our _____.
“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.” (Romans 8:18)

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.” (Romans 8:18)

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment.” (Romans 5:3)

What is the hope of Christmas for you?