

The 3rd Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 12, 2023

“Cross Training: Training in Hope”

1 Peter 1:1-9

INTRODUCTION

“Train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

“I consider our present sufferings insignificant compared to the glory that will soon be revealed to us... We were saved with this hope in mind. If we hope for something we already see, it's not really hope. But if we hope for what we don't see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” (Romans 8:18)

Hope is _____ to the Christian life—it not only helps us better understand our trials and challenges, but also gives us the strength to _____ and run the race.

Christian hope isn't just about our eternal _____—we need hope for _____!

We are _____ people, and hope in Jesus—in His life, death, resurrection, and return—forms the _____ of our faith—it _____ our soul and gives _____ to our life and helps us to run the race.

Having said that, hope doesn't just _____. Like any muscle, we need to _____ it so that it can become strong. And the more we _____ in hope, the more hopeful we'll be. However, the opposite is also true, and like any muscle, if we fail to use hope, it will become weaker and eventually _____.

Sometimes we can get so worn down by the _____ of life, and feel so utterly _____, that we can lose track of hope.

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12)

“Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Saviour and my God!” (Psalm 42:11)

The best thing we can do when we're _____ is not give up, run away, or hide under the covers, but to _____ in, step out, and place our hope in God. In other words, keep on _____.

5 TRUTHS THAT CAN INSPIRE HOPE

Truth #1. 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 _____ we chose God, He chose us.

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

“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

Understanding this simple truth can bring great _____ and hope. Nothing that happens in this world can ever change the fact that God has made us His _____ and _____.

The highest _____ we'll ever receive is that God _____ us, He's adopted us into His family, and destined us to spend eternity with Him.

Nothing that happens in this world can ever _____ the fact that God has made us His sons and daughters.

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

Truth #2. God always treats us with _____.

“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. Salvation isn't based on what we _____, but on _____ God is—it's based on His mercy, not on our _____.

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

God doesn't get _____ at us when we mess up, He doesn't look to get even, or think of ways to punish us. Why? Because of the _____ work of Jesus on the cross.

“...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 _____ with us through the blood of Jesus and we can have hope, because no matter how much we mess things up or how often we stumble and fall He’ll always respond with _____ And grace.

Truth #3. 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)

In Christ, our eternal destiny is _____, and nothing this side of heaven can change that.

No matter what happens in our lives, no matter what we might lose, we are not going to lose our _____.

OUR FUTURE IN CHRIST

- **Our future includes an _____.**
- **Our future is _____ for us.**
- **Our future is _____.**
katharos =
- **Our future is _____.**
- **Our future is _____.**

God has already written the final _____ of our lives, and our eternal future is _____.

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

Truth #4. 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* =

God is always _____ over us—and although things will come into our lives that _____ us, God promises to _____ us until we receive His gift of salvation. This doesn’t mean we won’t _____, suffer, or get hurt—it means no matter what happens to us, our _____ are firmly in God’s hands.

“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)

Truth #5. God is preparing us for _____.

“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)

3 THINGS ABOUT THE TRIALS OF LIFE

- **Trials are _____.**
- **Trials are _____.**
- **Trials are _____.**

3 THINGS GOD IS DOING AMIDST OUR TRIALS

- **God is _____ our faith.**
- **God is _____ our motives.**
- **God is _____ our reward.**

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

The troubles of this life are nothing compared to the _____ of the next. Our suffering is not in vain or without _____.

“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)

CONCLUSION

God’s love is love that seeks us even in the _____. It’s a love that reaches into our everyday reality—no matter what that reality is—lifts us from the pit of despair and sets our feet on _____ ground. That’s hope! And that’s what our faith is all about.

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings as eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)