

God with Us: Got Hope?

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 1, 2024

[1 Peter 3:15a](#)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...

Hope in Christ is...

1. DIFFERENT THAN THE WORLD'S HOPE

[Hebrews 11:1](#)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hope in Christ...

2. PROVES TO THE WORLD THAT WE BELONG TO CHRIST

[1 Thessalonians 4:13](#)

13 ... we do not want you to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

Hope in Christ is...

3. NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

[Ephesians 2:12-13](#)

12 remember that (formerly) you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Hope in Christ is...

4. OPPOSITE OF DESPAIR OR DISCOURAGEMENT

To overcome discouragement and reclaim hope...

• EXPECT TRIALS IN THIS LIFE

[1 Peter 1:3-8](#)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4-5 ... 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith ... may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

• SET YOUR HEART AND MIND ON GOD

[Colossians 3:1-3](#)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

[Psalms 16:8](#)

I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

When we set our heart and mind on God...

- GOD CHANGES OUR ATTITUDE
- WE BEGIN TO SEE A BIG GOD AND A LITTLE DEVIL
- WE BECOME AN ENCOURAGER OF OTHER PEOPLE
- WE PRAISE HIM

• TAKE OUR EYES OFF OURSELVES AND PLACE THEM ON CHRIST

[Hebrews 12:2-3](#)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.