

December 29, 2019



“Christmas Presence: Giving Presence All Year”

### “Christmas Presence in Your Future: A Gift of Hope”

*“I have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and He is the glory of Your people Israel!” Luke 2:30-32*

#### A. A gift of hope came to us at Christmas...

*“O little town of Bethlehem*

*How still we see thee lie*

*Above thy deep and dreamless sleep*

*The silent stars go by*

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth*

*The everlasting light*

*The hopes and fears of all the years*

*Are met in thee tonight.”*

*The song was written in 1868 by Phillip Brooks after a trip to the Holy Land.*

1. Jesus is the hope of the world!

*“And His name will be the hope of all the world.” Matthew 12:21*

2. Jesus is the source of hope.

*“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13*

3. As soon as we come into a relationship with Jesus, we have this hope.

*“which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.” Colossians 1:5*

4. We grow in our understanding of this hope.

*“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.”*

*Ephesians 1:18*

#### B. This hope is a confident expectation...

*“So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.”*

*Hebrews 6:18-20*

1. God has given us two unchangeable things to build a confident expectation.
2. Whatever we face, we can go to Him for refuge.
3. Whatever we face, we can hold to Him and the hope that lies before us.
4. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor.
5. This hope brings us into the very closest presence of God.
6. Jesus is already there for us!
  - When we are tempted – God promised us an anchor!
  - When we are discouraged – God promised us an anchor!
  - When we are afraid – God promised us an anchor!
  - When we feel backed into a corner – God promised us an anchor!
  - When we want to give up – God promised us an anchor!
  - When circumstances overwhelm us – God promised us an anchor!
  - When our loved ones encounter hard times – God promised us an anchor!
  - When our friends turn against us – God promised us an anchor!

*“So God has given both His promise and His oath... This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.”*

*“And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.” Romans 5:5*

#### C. Jesus brings hope through...

1. Past promises.

*“Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” Romans 15:4*

2. Present help.

*“Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again—my Savior and my God!”*

*Psalm 42:5*

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*

*Psalm 46:1 NIV*

3. Future glory.

*“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:12*

*“Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is.”*

*1 John 3:2*

#### D. His hope, your confident expectation, is all found in Christ...

*“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)”*

*Romans 8:18-25*

1. God will rescue you!
2. God has not forgotten you!
3. God personally knows you and all you face!
4. God is not disinterested in your struggles!
5. You are never alone!

*“The hopes and fears of all the years...Are met in thee tonight.”*

*January 5: Core 13 – Building Blocks: The Cornerstone!*