



God’s Plan  
for Hope...

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

1. Hope’s **Definition**  
a. **Hebrews 11:1**

**HOPE** - The confidence that, by integrating God’s redemptive acts in the past with trusting human responses in the present, the faithful will experience the fullness of God’s goodness both in the present and in the future.

Biblical faith rests on the trustworthiness of God to keep His promises. The biblical view of hope is thus significantly different from that found in ancient Greek philosophy. The Greeks recognized that human beings expressed hope by nature; however, this kind of hope reflects both good and bad experiences. The future was thus a projection of one’s own subjective possibilities (Bultmann, “ἐλπίς, *elpis*,” 2.517). Biblical hope avoids this subjectivity by being founded on something that provides a sufficient basis for

confidence in its fulfillment: God and His redemptive acts as they culminate in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Hope, in the biblical sense, means that the believer “already participates in the reality for which [s/he] hopes” (Beardslee, “Hope,” 235).<sup>2</sup>

2. Hope’s **Focus**

*That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. – 1 Tim 4:10 (NIV)*

3. Hope’s **Pathway**

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; – Romans 5:1-4 (NASB)*

4. Hope’s **Outcome**

<sup>5</sup>*and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. – Romans 5:5 (NASB)*

*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,  
- 1 Pet 1:3 (NIV)*

The Christian's hope is sound because it is founded upon the character of God and the redeeming work of His Son Jesus Christ. For this reason, Peter could call it "a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3). It is living because it rests on reality and not on fancy. It is not wishful dreaming but vital expectation with the whole might of the Most High behind it. – A.W. Tozer

In Whom/what do I put my hope?

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How is hope displayed in my words?

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How is hope displayed in my actions?

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Reflecting on this past November/December, have I lived as though my hope is steadfast (in Jesus) or circumstantial (focused on worldly/temporal things)?

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How might God want me to display my hope in Him this coming week? And, to whom?

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<sup>1</sup> Ben Craver, “[Hope](#),” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

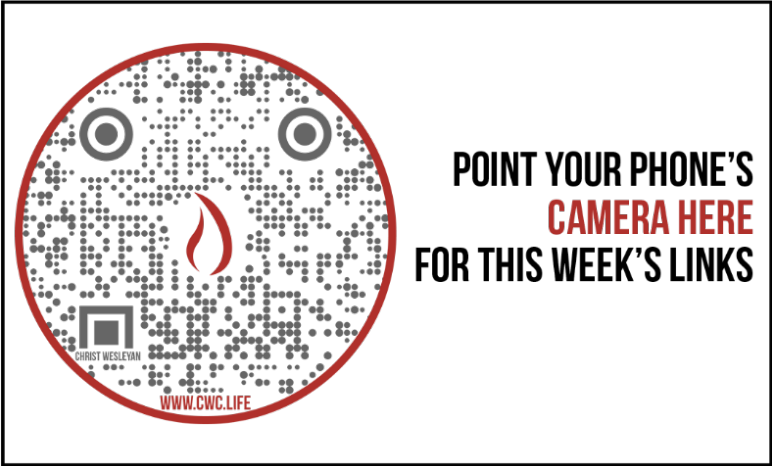
<sup>2</sup> Ben Craver, “[Hope](#),” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.      Rom 15:13 (ESV)

To begin a relationship with Jesus...  
Text: IChooseJesus (*all one word*) to 570-273-0088

Have a question? Want to take the message further?  
E-mail [mike.sweigard@cwv.life](mailto:mike.sweigard@cwv.life) with a question to be included on the Dive Deep Podcast

Next Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wholly Health  
Milton Campus: Pastor Branden  
Sunbury Campus: Pastor Mike



**Giving & Attendance Update**  
Giving last Sunday: 128% of goal  
Giving year to date: 83.7% of goal  
Attendance last Sunday: 3,073  
Salvations to date: 92 | Baptisms to date: 76

**Upcoming Happenings:**  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Classics Bus Trip: Hockey Night with the Hershey Bears

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Child Dedications