



Hope Born through Christmas

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

December 30, 2018

Truth for Life

For the week of December 30, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.
Hebrews 6:18-20

Hope ... an Anchor for the Soul ... Why?

1) Because of Past Promises ... Christ's Birth

- a. Born of the _____ - Genesis 3:15
- b. Born of _____ - Genesis 9:26
- c. Born a Son of _____ - Genesis 12:2,3
- d. Born a Son of _____ - Genesis 22:18
- e. Born a Son of _____ - Genesis 28:14
- f. Born from the _____ - Genesis 49:10
- g. Born a Descendant of _____ - 2 Sam. 7:11,12,16
- h. Born of a _____ - Isaiah 7:14
- i. Born in _____ - Micah 5:2

2) Because of _____ - Psalm 46:1

3) Because of _____ - 1 Cor. 13:12; 1 John 3:2

Closing Thoughts ...

- Life is filled with Difficulty, but Difficulty doesn't need to devastate us ... yet it should _____.
- _____ may be the greatest tool we have in our bag ... our hope is not in ourselves or others but in a God who has always kept His promises and has never let us down.

1. Identify the greatest (in magnitude) trial(s) you have ever faced. What were they? What impact did they have upon your life? In your own opinion, did you successfully encounter the trial(s)? Why or why not? Ultimately, what lasting impact do you still carry from that trial/those trials?
2. It has been stated that God's purpose in trials is to transform us toward godliness. What principles do the following Scriptures teach us, that are critical during trials?
James 1:2-4 James 1:5 Ephesians 5:15-16
Philippians 4:6-7 Philippians 4:8-9 Proverbs 3:5-6
3. In short, the success/failure of our navigation begins and ends in our mind. Do you agree/disagree? Why? How does knowing our trials have purpose affect our attitude during the trial? How does knowing God is with us in trials affect our attitude? Reflecting on Question 1, can you identify a cause for your success/failure of that trial? Is there anything you might do to better succeed the next trial?
4. Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. How can a believer keep trusting in God when He delays answers to prayers for years? Why does God make us wait?
 - b. How do we balance the tension between "examine yourself to see if you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5) and "take hold of the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:18)?
 - c. How should we "process" discouragement? What steps should we take to recover our hope in God? (See Psalms 42 & 43.)



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Hope ... an Anchor for the Soul ... Why?

- 1) Because of Past Promises ... Christ's Birth
 - a. Born of the **Human Race** – Genesis 3:15
 - b. Born of **Semitic Peoples** - Genesis 9:26
 - c. Born a Son of **Abraham** - Genesis 12:2,3
 - d. Born a Son of **Isaac** - Genesis 22:18
 - e. Born a Son of **Jacob** - Genesis 28:14
 - f. Born from the **Tribe of Judah** - Genesis 49:10
 - g. Born a Descendant of **David** - 2 Sam. 7:11,12,16
 - h. Born of a **Virgin** - Isaiah 7:14
 - i. Born in **Bethlehem** - Micah 5:2
- 2) Because of **Present Help** – Psalm 46:1
- 3) Because of **Future Glory** – 1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2

Closing Thoughts ...

- Life is filled with Difficulty, but Difficulty doesn't need to devastate us ... yet it should **shape us**.
- **Hope** may be the greatest tool we have in our bag ... our hope is not in ourselves or others but in a God who has always kept His promises and has never let us down.

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