

The Hope of Christmas

1 Peter 1:3-5,13; Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:25-35

Hope began at the birth of Christ, Hope was verified or completed at His resurrection, and Hope will be fully realized at His return.

I. What is Hope?

What hope is not:

- 1) wishful thinking or naïve optimism
- 2) not based on circumstances or feelings

A. Hope is a certainty about the future, based on God's promises, that impacts the present (**1 Peter 1:3-5,13**)

1) Hope looks to the future (**Romans 8:24-25**)

2) Hope is certain of God's promises

3) Hope impacts the present

Titus 2:11-13

our living hope is anchored in the blessed hope

B. Hope is birthed out of deep longings and desperate need

Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:25-35

waiting (prosdechomai) – "to give access to one's self"

Simeon's hope was birthed out of his deep need for God's comfort and healing.

Matthew 5:3-6

C. Hope is encouraging and comforting
consolation – encouragement or comfort

1 Peter 3:15

D. Hope is found in a person

When our hope is placed in anything other than the promises of God and the fulfillment of these promises in Jesus, we tend to settle for hope in lesser things.

Is your hope based on something you want God to do or is it based on God Himself?

Colossians 1:27

II. A Picture of Hope

A. The anchor (**Hebrews 6:19,20**)

"the cable of faith casts out the anchor of hope and lays hold of the steadfast rock of God's promises."

B. Anchor/cross

Our hope is in the promised rewards awaiting us in heaven
Our hope is birthed out of an understanding of our great need
and our brokenness apart from our savior, Jesus Christ

Our hope is in the work of Christ through His death, burial,
and resurrection

Our hope is in the person of Christ