



Christmas

December 6, 2015
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Eric Wakeling

Hope Isaiah 9:1-7, Matthew 4:12-17

What are you hoping for? Matthew 6:19-34

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

- Misplaced hope

- What are your deeper hopes?

In what or whom are you placing your hope? Romans 15:12-13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Our only hope is in Jesus, the Light of the World Isaiah 9:1-7

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness. From then on and forevermore.” Isaiah 9:6-7

- Matthew 4:12-17

- John 8:12

Digging Deeper:

The answer to our hope is always Jesus. Spend some time writing down your hopes and prayers. Pray that Christ will be the fulfillment of all of these hopes. After you have prayed through this we encourage everyone to come forward and light a candle that represents Jesus is our hope and through Jesus our hopes are fulfilled. The lighting of the candles will not ensure your prayers are answered but it is a powerful visual representation of our hope in the light of Christ. We are better together as we hope in Christ together.

My deepest hope for myself is...

Come Lord Jesus.

My deepest hope for my friends/family is...

Come Lord Jesus.

My deepest hope for the world is...

Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus, awaken our hope.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Discuss some of your misplaced hopes that you have or have had in the past. Why is it so easy for us to hope for things that aren't eternal?
2. What are the things, other than Jesus, in which you have placed your hope? What steps can we take to help us remember to place our hope in Christ alone?
3. What are your deepest hopes for yourself, for your friends, for your family and for the world? How can you continue to hope in Christ for these things? Even deeper, how can your hope be made more for Christ Himself?

Next Steps:

1. Spend time in prayer for your heart and for your hope to be in Christ.
2. Live generously and give generously to help you learn to not place your hopes in money, the chief competitor for your soul.
3. Invite someone to attend a Christmas program or service at some point in the next month. Use these programs and services as tools for you to share God's grace with others. Learn more in The Quarterly or calvarylife.org/christmas