

HOPE

"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

Advent

- From the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival"
- The season of Advent anticipates Christ from two perspectives
 - To recall the ancient longing for the coming Messiah (Incarnation)
 - To be alert for His return (Second Coming)
- Advent is celebrated by churches on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas

The God of Hope

"Now may the God of hope..." Romans 15:13

- The word "Hope" is mentioned 146 times in the Bible (NASB)
- Romans 15:13: The Triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is the source of all hope

Hope Misused

- Cultural definition of the word "hope"
 - Wishful thinking ("I hope you pass the test")
- Biblical definition of the word "hope"
 - New Testament Greek word: "elpis" - expectation for what is certain
 - Old Testament Hebrew word: "tikvah" - waiting firmly or strongly

Hope Misplaced

"...So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the godless will perish..." Job 8:13

- The Fool's Way: Hope in things and people
- The Way of the Disillusioned: Fading hope

Hope Fulfilled

"...In Him shall the Gentiles hope." Romans 15:12

- Hope is fulfilled in Jesus Christ for Salvation (Romans 15:12-13 & Isaiah 11:1-10)
 - The shoot of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-10)
 - The believer in Christ is filled with joy and peace and abounding in hope (Romans 15:12-13)
- Hope is fulfilled in Jesus Christ for the 2nd Coming (Titus 2:13)

Digging Deeper:

Below are 22 of the 146 verses in the Bible that talk about hope. As of today, December 3, there are 22 days until Christmas. I encourage you to read over, mediate, memorize or simply recite out loud one of these passages each day until Christmas, as an act of worship and as a reminder of the hope you have in the 1st and 2nd advent of Jesus Christ!

“Let Your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, According as we have hoped in You.” **Psalm 33:22**

“And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.” **Psalm 39:7**

“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.” **Psalm 42:5**

“My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.” **Psalm 62:5**

“For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth.” **Psalm 71:5**

“But as for me, I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more.” **Psalm 71:14**

“Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.” **Psalm 119:116**

“I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.” **Psalm 130:5**

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” **Jeremiah 29:11**

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.” **Lamentations 3:24**

“Let him put his mouth in the dust, Perhaps there is hope.” **Lamentations 3:29**

“And in His name the Gentiles will hope.” **Matthew 12:21**

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” **Romans 15:4**

“Again Isaiah says, “There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.”

Romans 15:12

“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

“[Those Who Died in Christ] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.” **1 Thessalonians 4:13**

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” **1 Timothy 6:17**

“...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” **Titus 2:13**

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil” **Hebrews 6:19**

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” **Hebrews 10:23**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” **1 Peter 1:3**

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence” **1 Peter 3:15**

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Do you have any memories of advent calendars (with chocolate!), advent wreaths or advent services during the Christmas seasons of your childhood? Where these positive or negative memories? How do your past Christmas memories impact how you approach the Advent/Christmas season this year?
2. The word “hope” is often misused to mean “wishful” in our culture. How does the Biblical definition of hope (“waiting with certainty”) add more weight and importance to the term?
3. Where will you be tempted to misplace your hope in, this Advent/Christmas season?
4. Our hope is fulfilled in Jesus Christ both in the 1st Advent and the 2nd Advent to come. How can you “abound in hope” in Jesus this Advent/Christmas season?

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord.** Use “The Way” card located in the seat rack in front of you to guide you in making this important decision. **calvarylife.org/jesus**
2. **Pick up a “12 Ways to Serve Orange County this Christmas”** in the Worship Center Lobby to discover ways you can share hope with others this Advent/Christmas season. **calvarylife.org/reach**
3. **Visit the Homeless Outreach table in the Lobby** to learn about specific ways you can volunteer to serve the homeless population here in Orange County and share the hope you have in Jesus Christ. **calvarylife.org/reach**



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