

**Introduction:** Senora Paz: “I want him to know there is always hope.”

**I. What is hope and why is it so important?**

**A. Definitions:**

- a. Modern from internet= “A feeling of expectation; a desire for a certain thing to happen”
- b. Archaic from internet: “A feeling of trust, aspiration, desire...”
- c. Verb: “Wanting something to happen or to be the case, expect, anticipate...”
- d. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

**B. The state of Hope in our culture now? Depends?**

- a. Rancher in eastern Montana this summer: “After two bad years the only thing we’ve got to go on is optimism...”
- b. National economy / inflation
- c. Polarized communities and political strife
- d. COVID-19
- e. International Scene: Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, the Koreas, Taiwan...
- f. Set backs in many individual’s and family lives...
- g. Positives? Hopeful signs? Russia back in the Ukraine grain export deal.

**C. Why is hope important:**

- a. Hope effects Mental health and attitude of individuals and community
- b. Hope promotes prosperity and civil goodness.
- c. Hope unites those who hope similarly.
- d. Hope nurtures love and generosity for others.
- e. Hope helps us to have courage and to persevere in the right and for the right and for truth and love.
- f. Without hope? We may fall into fear, despair, self-centeredness, isolation. Hopelessness is a self-fulfilling prophecy...

**D. Entities in which we Hope:**

- a. Ourselves: Bob A: “belief in my ability to positively impact and influence the world around me.” “Tough times don’t last; tough people do.”
- b. Leaders and authorities / Government and the Country
  - i. NPR interview Wed: No one on the scene capable of uniting the polarized country - giving faith in the systems, structures, rule of law again.
  - ii. 1970 – My French Teacher: “In France, the Government is “Them.” In America the Government is “Us.” True in 2022?
- c. Humanism: “The basic decency of all people...” Educate and progress.
- d. Our community / church / team / family

- e. Fate: Calvin Coolidge: “Nine out of ten worries coming down the road will fall in the ditch before they get to you.” Things tend to work out...
  - f. How do we think about these as sources of Hope in trying times?
    - i. Important sources of hope...
    - ii. Good as far as they go...
  - g. Other:
- II. **God, our Hope** – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – “I would have despaired if I had not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” Psalm 27:13(?)
- A. How does God Give us Hope?**
- a. God’s Revealed Character and Attributes....
    - i. Law-Giving Lover - Exodus 34:4
    - ii. Almighty Creator – Genesis 1-2
    - iii. Loving and Faithful – Psalm 103:11,12...
    - iv. Just and Righteous – Psalm 89:14; 103:6
    - v. Other Qualities of God that Give hope?.
  - b. **What God’s Deeds tell us about God of Hope**... Interpreting the Exodus..
    - i. Exodus 3:7-10 – To Moses at the Burning Bush: “I have seen... I have heard... I am concerned... I have come down... I am sending you... to bring my people out of Egypt...”
  - c. **What God’s Words tell us about hope**
    - i. “Emmanuel, God with us”- Matthew 1; John 14 – Holy Spirit
    - ii. “Refuge and Strength. A very present help in trouble, Therefore.” Ps. 46.
  - d. **The place of Faith / Hope, enacted in prayer**
    - i. Faith is a Gift God gives – not psyched up although...
    - ii. Faith can be a Choice.... Psalm 42: “Why are you downcast, o my soul?”
    - iii. Faith “invites and enables God’s participation in the events.”
      - 1. First with us in our efforts to stand – Isaiah 41:1 – Fear not for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
        - a. Luke 5 – Fished all night and caught nothing, but...”
        - b. Jim B. “Oh yeah – God!”
      - 2. When we have nothing left or are overpowered. 2Chronicles 20
        - a. Queen Susan’s Horn / Prayer
    - iv. Faith believes / hopes in God even in the great mysteries..
      - 1. In times of waiting, when hope is deferred . Proverbs 13:12
      - 2. In times of suffering... Susan S.
      - 3. In times of confusion and turmoil, disorientation...

4. In times of loss and failure...
  5. Hope that God, who is wise and loving and all-powerful is at work to bring meaning and God's purposes out of it all.
    - a. **HopeHeals.com.**
  6. African American Preacher: "He may not show up when you want Him, but He'll show up right on time."
- e. **Christian Hope – What God Promises Theologically:**
- i. Adopted by Faith into Daughterhood / Sonship – We are the people of God – Justification by Grace through Faith
  - ii. Forgiveness of Sins...
    1. Augustine hopes: "My whole Hope is in your Mercy."
  - iii. As such, we are being nurtured into a maturity in Christ. Sanctification.
  - iv. A salvation reserved in Heaven for us / Eternal Life – John 17:3
  - v. "Resurrection!" – Freeman M. Lazarus – John 11
  - vi. A new heaven and a new earth - **Rev 22**
- f. **Because of This, we Hope in God for this World**
- i. God loves this world... John 3:16
  - ii. Jesus: "I am the Light of the World... You are the Light of the World"
  - iii. "In this world you will find trouble, but fear not! I have overcome the world!" John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16
  - iv. N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*, Harper One, p. 5

### III. **Preaching and Preaching Hope...**

- a. **A great act of Faith-** Karl Barth: that preaching is the Word of God preached.
  - i. The Holy Spirit speaks to transform lives in many ways appropriate to that live in that moment.
  - ii. Word of God or word of preacher?
- b. **Reformed Preaching: Preaching is declaring the mighty acts of God.**
  - i. Rehearses / retells and applies the works of God
    1. Biblical illustrations-
      - a. Jesus healing the leper in Mark 1:41-46
      - b. Jesus suffered terrible injustice and was crucified. We may, too... But there is resurrection.
    2. Illustrations from life... God moments for people of faith.
      - a. Jim, Sarah Singleton and the check for the exact amount
      - b. From my list....
  - ii. Reveals God's character
  - iii. Applies the text to life...
- c. **Promises, Biblical Accounts and Stories..**
  - i. Importance of Experience and the Holy Spirit –Remember God moments
  - ii. Not just proposition and a "Do this... Hope!"

**Story of Hope:** Mabel's Moment? Or.... Youtube: "The Lord is my Salvation" by Keith Getty; or "You are Sovereign over us," Aaron Keyes

