

December 8, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church

Text: Titus 2:11-14

Message Series: Advent 2019

Week 2: Hope

Introduction:

1. This is the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is a word that means the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event”.
2. In Christian history, Advent is a time for Christ-followers to prepare their heart and mind as we think back to Christ’s first coming and build anticipation into our lives for His second coming.
3. The Christmas story isn’t some nice fairytale that is sweet and comforting. The original Christmas story was one of scandal and hardship for those involved in order to usher in the greatest blessing they would ever know.
4. And it must be much the same for us. As one author said, for us, “Christmas is an indictment before it is a delight.”
5. Christmas cannot be a sweet little story of a baby in a manger without first being the realization that your sin demanded the death of the Son of God.
6. That is why He came. Not so you could have a tradition during December, but so that you could have forgiveness by His death and life by His resurrection.
7. Advent helps us focus on this and we have prepared resources for you to use during the weeks leading up to Christmas day. They are on the resource table in the back. We also have these resources in digital format that were sent out earlier this week. If you didn’t get them, please see me after the service.
8. There are four words associated with Advent and we will walk through each of them. We began with Peace last week and we will look to the Scriptures to help us understand more about Hope today.
9. Titus 2 gives us this great overview of our hope through Jesus.

10. And the hope for today is that we will better understand what difference hope makes in our lives and learn how to increase in hope and live differently because of it.

Read Titus 2:11-14

In these verses and one other we will look at we understand that...

Advent Hope means...

1. Biblical hope and faith are inseparable and similar. If faith is our foundation, then hope is the anchor that holds us to it.
2. This thought from one author was helpful. He said that hope is the future-looking part of faith.
3. In the OT hope means “to wait eagerly with full anticipation”. For many of the faithful, and therefore hope-filled, OT saints they had no reason to believe their circumstances would change, but still chose to be hope-filled.
4. They believed God and His promises rather than what their situation or circumstance said.
5. For us, this side of the cross and resurrection of Jesus...

1. We have Ultimate Hope Because... – Titus 2:11-14

a. Jesus lived, died, and rose again

b. And promised to return

- i. Paul gives us a great reminder and motivation to live as we have been called to live because of the gospel and promise of Christ’s return.
- ii. As Christ-followers, we believe in who Jesus is and what Jesus did to forgive our sin and change our heart to know and love the Father.
- iii. But to believe the Scriptures about who Jesus is and what Jesus did, and ignore the truth that He’s coming again will cause us to miss some important parts of our life in Christ.

- iv. That future looking part of faith called hope is what fuels us with courage to overcome our fears.
- v. Ultimately the Christ-follower isn't fearful of hell because we've been rescued from any possibility of it, but we're fearful over so many lesser things and I would contend that this is because we don't work to actively grow in hope.
- vi. We are hope-filled in this one area, but not filled with hope in every area as we should be.
- vii. Hope is a game-changer! It makes a daily difference in our existence, but...

2. We have to Grow & Give Hope – Romans 15:13

a. Grow by feasting on God's promises

b. Give by being an encourager

- i. Another author describes hope as a "reservoir of emotional strength"
- ii. Hope is what gives us courage in the face of a fearful situation.
- iii. Jon Bloom says, "Fear is the indicator that our souls are hungry for hope."
- iv. And when the hunger pangs set in and we become fearful, there is only one place to go to satisfy our hunger.
- v. We must spend time feasting on the promises of God. These promises encourage us. They strengthen and restore our courage.
- vi. Some of us have people we go to when we are down or fearful. We have people we know will encourage us. They say things that help restore hope in us that things will be ok. That things will turn around. They bolster hope in us.
- vii. But for that to be real encouragement, for them to really restore our hope they must help point us to the promises of the Scriptures.
- viii. And hopefully that relationship isn't a one way street. They should be able in turn to call on you when they need their hope restored.

- ix. When they need encouragement. When their fear is bigger than their hope. When their reservoir of emotional strength is running dry.
- x. So three questions for us today...

Closing

1. Do you know where to go in the Scriptures to feast on the promises of God?
2. Who is your encourager? Do they encourage you with the truth of God's promises?
3. Are you a hope giver by being an encourager?
4. Let's pray and then confess to the Lord the honest condition of our heart and mind today knowing we have a God who is the God of hope and wants you to abound in hope.