

- c. <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Timothy 6:17** “Command those who are rich in this present world **not** to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything...”
- d. <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Peter 1:13** “...prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.” *So let us focus on ETERNAL* rather than temporary things!

**Conclusion:** During this season of **hope** and throughout the year, may God keep our hope in Him and His Word!

We now conclude this sermon with this responsive reading; see your worship folder: **Psalm 33:16-22 NIV**

P: No king is saved by the size of his army;

**C: no warrior escapes by his great strength.**

P: A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;

**C: despite all its great strength it cannot save.**

P: But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,

**C: on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,**

P: to deliver them from death

**C: and keep them alive in famine.**

P: We wait in hope for the LORD;

**C: he is our help and our shield.**

P: In him our hearts rejoice,

**C: for we trust in his holy name.**

P: May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,

**C: even as we put our hope in you.**

P: And all God’s people said:

**A: Amen!**

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# “Hope Is Much More Than Wishful Thinking!”

Based on Various Passages Containing “Hope”

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 2010

December 5 → 8:15 & 10:45

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, some would call this time of year *a time of HOPE!* **But what is hope?**

- **Webster’s Dictionary:** Hope is “a feeling that what is wanted will happen; desire accompanied by expectation.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, ☹ no trust, ☹ no confidence, ☹ no certainty, *but merely wishful thinking!* For example: <sup>NIV</sup> **Proverbs 11:7** “When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes...” Even though the world lives with such hope, may God help us to understand *the meaning of hope in the Bible*; then have that hope and live in peace!
- **Theological Dictionary of the NT:** “To hope is to trust.” Hope is “confidence in what God will do.” For example: <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 11:1** “...faith is being sure of what we hope for...” Hope is “freed from anxiety but must be accompanied by fear of God. Hence it must be a quiet waiting on God.” “Hope rests on faith in the act of salvation...” In other words, by God’s gift of faith we ✦ believe His Word, ✦ trust in Jesus, and ✦ KNOW we are saved – *even though we have not yet*

<sup>1</sup> Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third College Edition (New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1988), 650.

seen or experienced all the benefits! However, the focus of our Christian hope “*is not on what is to be given but on the God who gives it...*”<sup>2</sup>

Now, since ✦ we find ourselves in a season of hope and ✦ *the word hope was spoken four times in today’s epistle reading* (Romans 15:4-13), we turn our attention to some key passages of Scripture that include the word “hope.”

### 1. “Hope” in the Psalms:

#### a. David prayed:

- i. <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 25:3** “No one whose hope is in you [the Lord] will ever be put to shame...” ☺
- ii. <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 62:1** “My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. <sup>2</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.... <sup>5</sup> Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him [from God alone].”
- iii. <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 65:5** “You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas...” *May He be our hope too!*

#### b. <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 119**: It has 176 verses – *one group of eight verses for every letter of the Hebrew alphabet* – which all focus on the Word of God:

- i. **V. 74** “May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.” *Even as WE rejoice for other believers!*

- ii. **V. 81** “My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word.” *Therefore, I am still waiting with confidence!*
- iii. **V. 114** “You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.” *You will protect me!*
- iv. **V. 147** “I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.” *I know you will help me in Your time and in Your way!*

### 2. “Hope” in Some Other OT Books:

- a. <sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 40:30** Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary...” *Therefore, let us always hope in the Lord!*
- b. <sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 49:23** “...I am the LORD; those who hope in me [in the Lord] will not be disappointed.” ☺
- c. <sup>NIV</sup> **Jeremiah 14:22** “Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, O LORD our God. Therefore our hope is in you [in the Lord, our God]...” *Sound reasoning!*

### 3. “Hope” in the NT:

- a. <sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 12:21** “In his name [in Jesus] the nations will put their hope.” So we also trust in Jesus, *God’s Son!*
- b. <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 4:18** Against all hope [all worldly hope that he – nearly 100 years old, and his wife – whose womb was dead, would have a child; against all of that], Abraham in hope believed [in God’s promise] and so became the father of many nations...” *All things are possible with God!*

<sup>2</sup> *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985), 230-231.