Advent - Class #1

HOPE

A Biblical Definition

- The Old Testament Hebrew words for “hope” often translate as “wait.”
  - יָחַל- *yakhal* - to wait, hope, expect; by implication: to be patient.
  - קָוָה- *qavah* - to bind together (perhaps twisting); wait in a state of tension or expectation.
- The New Testament Greek word
  - ἐλπίς - *elpis* - to anticipate, usually with pleasure; to hope.

Psalm 130

[1] Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
[2] O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
[3] If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
[4] But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
5] I **wait** *(qavah)* for the LORD, my soul **waits** *(qavah)*, and in his word
I **hope** *(yakhal)*;
[6] my soul waits *(Supported, but no actual word in Hebrew)* for the Lord more than watchmen for the
morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
[7] O Israel, **hope** *(yakhal)* in the LORD! For with the LORD there is
steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.
[8] And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

What are you hoping in?

- Questions to consider:
  - How has what you've hoped for in your life changed over time? How does what you hope for NOW compare to what you hoped for as a child? A younger man or woman?
  - What do you find yourself "*hoping*" in to fix your circumstance(s)?

1 Peter 1:3-9

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** *(elpis)* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6] In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. [8] Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, [9] obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (ESV)

"Advent hope does not minimize pain or difficulty, nor does it assume things will soon get better. Instead, it faces the darkness with courage and chooses to trust that God's promises will come to pass, guaranteed by his long-proven, faithful character."

- The Bible Project

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