

SACRED TRUTHS

Hope

3-21-18

If your definition of hope amounts to nothing more than wishful thinking, then your life could be full of the ups and downs, left to the mercy of life's circumstances. That isn't hope, hope isn't a roller coaster; it's a confident assurance in God no matter the circumstances.

What does the Bible say about Hope?

- Psalm 33:17-22; 40:1-4
- Proverbs 10:28
- 1 Thess. 4:13
- 1 Tim. 1:1; 4:9-10
- Romans 15:13
- 2 Cor. 1:10
- Col. 1:27
- 1 Peter 1:3, 13

Romans 8 lists 7 aspects of Hope

1. 8:1 - In Christ our condemnation is gone
2. 8:17,18 - As heir's in Christ, we have an inheritance
3. 8:28 - God will work everything out for our good, if we are in Christ
4. 8:31 - If God is for us, who could be against us

5. 8:33 - no one can bring a charge against us
6. 8:34 - Jesus is interceding for us
7. 8:35-39 - nothing can separate us from His love

Seven statements we need to hold on to

1. God is in control
2. What we see now is not the whole story, eternity awaits
3. God loves us in the middle of life's trials
4. Real hope is ours thru Christ
5. No matter what we face, we are never separated from Christ's love
6. We do overcome thru Christ
7. Our task is to bring this message to a hopeless world

In Your groups, read:

- Romans 5:1-5
- Psalm 121

Questions:

- If you were to ask your neighbors and co-workers about “hope” what would they say?
- What do people typically base their hopes on?
- What have you most often based your hope on?
- When are you most likely to base your hope on people and things rather than God? Where has that taken you?
- What usually affects your hope meter, causing you to be more hopeful or hopeless?
- What does placing your trust in Christ and therefore having Him be the center of our hope really mean for you?

And require of you?