

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOV 29, 2020 // SERENITY



REASON FOR HOPE

Pastor Marq Youngblood gave a passionate and personal message today on finding, keeping, and trusting in the hope we have in Jesus—in all times, regardless of circumstances. Biblical hope is not a passive feeling; it is full of strength and power when it is rooted in the presence of Jesus. Hope comes alongside us in loneliness and despair and sustains us in disappointment or doubt. Biblical hope doesn't replace all good or bad emotions or experiences—grief is real, joy is real, fatigue, sickness, love, loss ... they are all real and meant to be experienced, just not alone. Our promise from Jesus is that he will provide, in hard times or in celebration. His presence is his provision. The provision is not what we think we want or need from Jesus—Jesus is our provision, and he is sufficient yesterday, today, and every day in this life, and the next. Biblical hope is a person, and his name is Jesus.

Biblical Hope:

- Trustful expectation, particularly in reference to the fulfillment of God's promises
- The anticipation of a favorable outcome under God's guidance

SCRIPTURE:

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

– 1 Peter 3:15

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

– Philippians 2:9-11

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." – Hebrews 13:8

"... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:20

"I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength." – Philippians 4:12-13 (NIRV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in Marq's message about the reason for hope?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15, along with the definition of biblical hope. What reason would you give for the hope you have?
3. Is your reason for biblical hope derived from personal experience, observation, or expectation? How so?
4. Read Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 13:8, Matthew 28:20, and Philippians 4:12-13. Why can you put your trust in Jesus and how does this convert to hope?
5. What circumstances or emotions are you experiencing now and how can Jesus provide hope in his presence? For instance: Fatigue from the pandemic restrictions—Jesus gives me rest and renews my perspective.
6. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for the hope you have in Jesus. Ask him to awaken you to his presence if you are feeling distanced. Pray for the words to express your hope in the Lord and for the opportunity to share with others this biblical hope. Reflect on past experiences of how the Lord provided through his presence in what would otherwise have been hopeless situations. Then praise God for sending his Son to meet you where you are and provide the hope you need for today.

“Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present” – John Maxwell