



2019 January Sermon Series: Hope for a Broken World

Message #1: Hope for a Broken World

Getting the Nod

Skit: What Child is This... Whose is He?

Video: **New Years' Resolution**

We all have hopes for this coming year. Hopes for health and success... stronger marriages and greater parenting... to work harder and spend less time on trivial things... and to spend more time with the Lord. New Years' resolutions are flowing today with us like waters at Niagara!

They're flowing because resolutions are just byproducts of hope that are energized by cause and effect... If I work out and eat right... I will get healthy and lose weight. / If I work harder, I will get a raise. / If I invest in my spouses love tank, things will improve at home. / If I spend more time with my children, they will respect me more. / If I take my children to church and teach them at home about salvation, they will most likely become followers of Christ. **Cause and effect.**

We all know about the law of cause and effect...

Humor: A man arrived at the Pearly Gates where Peter stood waiting to process new arrivals. "Okay," said Peter. "Tell me one thing that you did on earth that was purely unselfish." 3. The man thought for a second and said, "That's easy. How about this? I was walking along, minding my own business, when I came upon this little old lady who was being shoved around by a huge biker-type guy." "What did you do?" asked Peter. "First, I went over to his bike and kicked it over, just to distract him. Then I kicked him in the shins really hard. Then I punched him in the solar plexus with all my might and yelled at the old lady to run for it." "That's amazing," said Peter. "Exactly when did this happen?" "Oh, I'd say about 2 or 3 minutes ago." **Cause and effect. If you flirt with disaster... disaster will flirt back.**

Transition: So whether it's a New Year's Resolution or a goal set for the future... it is connected to hope... and hope is what we need in this broken world!!!

Connecting Us:

Another example of cause and effect: We believed that if our church could raise enough money for the Jesus' birthday... then we would save children's lives from a dump in Honduras with two new class rooms; reunite pastors in Papua New Guinea with their families to doubly impact their ministry; create immediate funding for disaster recovery; provide our denomination with greater recruiting for world evangelism; and improve the north Columbus ministry to prostitutes and sex-trafficking at COMO!! **We did that... and we have now invested in the kingdom of God around the world!! That was our hope... and it happened!!! What are you hoping for in the future?**

Let me share with you where my hope is found... (Singing with lyrics shown)

Verse #1: My hope is built on nothing less... Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

Verse #2: When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. **(Chorus)**

Verse #3: When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;

Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. **(Chorus)**

Transition: My hope is in Jesus Christ!!! Listen to Peter's words in 1 Peter 1: 3-9...

What's God's Take on This?

NKJV | 1 Pe 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Hope is...

- Hope is like a candle in darkness.
- What oxygen is to the lungs... so hope is like oxygen to the soul.
- When others see only a hopeless end, Christians see an endless hope.

That's precisely what Peter is saying in his first chapter!!! We have a LIVING HOPE! A LIFE_GIVING HOPE!! A hope that sees BEYOND OUR TROUBLES!!

"living hope" in the original language means "a breathing hope"... "a blessed living"... "like water to a parched throat, so is this hope!" **"And Hope"** is "a confident expectation of good" and "to have faith in a foundation."

We have a remarkable hope...

1. Our hope transforms lives.

- ...who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...
- For billions of people, life offers little hope. Few have good jobs. Millions of people have a poor education or lack experience, so they're trapped in poverty. For billions more, sickness and death are daily realities.
- As Job said, NLT | Job 14:1 "How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble!"
- If you only have hope for this life, old age and death are a fearful specter.
- **But Peter in this living hope is speaking of a NEW BIRTH!!** Why? Because into the world of despair has dawned a wonderful event -- the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead!
- **It's a cause and effect!** With Jesus' resurrection has come New Life! We were all born physically into this earthly realm, but Jesus said we must all be born a second time – into the spiritual realm! A transformed life!!!

- NLT | Php 4:13 **For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.**
- And Peter says later in verse 23, NLT | 1 Pe 1:23 **For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.**
- **Illustration of My Transformation and Ranger Shook.** “What the _____ has happened to you?” My mind had changed. My preferences had changed. My future had changed. My sinful ways had become putrid and was replaced with joy and optimism!
- **Cause and effect:** I gave my life to Jesus... and HE CHANGED ME COMPLETELY!!
- **That’s remarkable hope!!**

2. Our hope has an inheritance.

- Verse 4 “...to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...”
- **Here’s some hope... HEAVEN IS REAL!!!** NKJV | Jn 3:16 **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- **Jesus told us about heaven!** NLT | Jn 14:1-4 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.”
- **The Bible tells us that Heaven is a Real Place.** It’s described as ‘Paradise.’ It’s a place of real cities, streets, mansions, mountains, trees, rivers, and lots of people and angels there.
- **Best of all – God’s there!** Heaven is a place of reunions. One day, we’re going to go there and we’ll be with all our missed loved ones again, forever!
- **But we all need to remember how we get there...** NLT | Jn 3:3 **Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”**
- **Humor:** A Russian Rabbi came to visit America. His host took him to a Chinese restaurant. It was Christmas time, and the waiter, at the end of the meal, brought each of them a Christmas ornament. On the bottom, it said, “Made in India.” The host observed the Rabbi wipe a tear. “Were you offended at being given the Christmas ornament?” **“No, I was shedding a tear of joy to be in such a wonderful country in which a Buddhist gives a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu!”**
- We may have multi-culturalism, but we know there’s only One Savior of the world – Jesus Christ! **He is your hope for heaven!!! Cause and effect.** Give your life to Jesus and the Bible promises heaven.

3. Our hope keeps us going through hard times.

- Verse 6 “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials...”
- **Illustration of the Heavenly Ticket:** For years a man parked his car in an alley near his Chicago home. It had never been ticketed. It was legal. One morning he found a ticket on his car. He wondered how this could be a blessing from God. A few days later, during a strong wind storm, a mammoth oak fell right across the place where he had been parking his car. Had his car still been there, it would have been smashed. He humbly thanked God for the ticket!

- **We need to see from heaven's perspective.** NLT | Ro 8:18 *Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.*
- **Another perspective from heaven.** NLT | 2 Co 4:17 *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!*
- **And one more...** NLT | Ro 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
- **Cause and effect.** If you have troubles, put on heaven's glasses and see that God will somehow use our troubles for our good!

4. Our hope is focused on Christ.

- Verse 8 *"...whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory..."*
- **Illustration of Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration:** In Matthew 17, Peter, James, and John were allowed to see the deity of Jesus. It is entitled the story of the Mount of Transfiguration.
- Look at this verse... NLT | Mt 17:2 *As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.*
- **Peter saw Jesus illuminate with a bright light and His face shining.** That day would forever change the way Peter would look at Jesus. The deity of Jesus, previously veiled, now shone through Jesus' earthly form. Two great prophets who'd appeared -- Moses and Elijah -- suddenly disappeared, and Jesus alone remained.
- Peter realized that day that NO Law or Prophet could save; no doctrine, no teaching can redeem us: Only Jesus can!
- Jesus stands alone! No one else is like Him. Don't look to other men. Jesus, as God, is in a class by Himself.
- **Cause and effect.** When we trust in Jesus... God enters our life. Not as a historical icon... but a Heavenly Guide and friend.

Illustration of the Plea to Leave India: The story is told that when missionaries first went to India, an old Hindu priest sat on the ground with a large group of people listening to the story of Jesus. He became increasingly restless as the word picture developed. So, this Christ, who came to save the world, had been seized and mocked by the very persons He had sought to help -- had endured the trial, the judgment, the cross. Finally, as the Hindu heard the words spoken by the suffering, deserted Savior: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," the old man could stand it no longer. Rushing forward, he fell before them exclaiming, **"We want you to leave India! We want you to leave India!"** When the speaker asked why, the Hindu implored, **"Because we have no story like this -- no Savior who lived a sinless life, died for His enemies and prayed for those who took His life. If you keep on telling this story to our people, they will forsake our temples and follow your Savior."** You see, the story of Jesus is one of such drama and heart- rending sacrifice, that it's shocking when you first hear it.

Transition: The Hindu priest was rejecting the hope found in Christ... even though he felt it was true. *I hope you won't reject that hope today! It is a remarkable hope. (Amen Church?)*

Drawing the Net

Do you need Hope this morning? If you have some kind of trouble in your life or family...

The Hope that Jesus offers will:

- Transform you;
- give you eternal life;
- help you through your trials;
- and enter your life as both Savior and Friend.

It's "cause and effect"!

Give your life to Christ... and you will find hope in this broken world!!!