

"A THRILL OF HOPE, THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES"

*"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope."*

Matthew 12:20-21 (NIV)

❖ Where is your Hope?

*"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord."*

Jeremiah 17:5 (NIV)

*... remember that at that time you were separate from Christ... without hope and without God in the world.*

Ephesians 2:12 (NIV)

1. The World puts its hope in HUMAN WISDOM.

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.*

Romans 1:21-23 (NIV)

2. Some put their hope in PERSONAL WEALTH.

*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 for our enjoyment.*

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

3. The end result is always the same... FALSE HOPE leads to DESTRUCTION.

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

❖ Christmas Brings Hope:

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:11 (KJV)

1. Without CHRISTMAS there is NO HOPE.

*"There is no one righteous, not even one..."*

Romans 3:10 (NIV)

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

2. Because of Christmas HOPE is REVEALED.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

3. By accepting the message of Christmas, HOPE is REALIZED.

*For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

❖ The Message of Hope:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you...*

1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

1. What Gives Me Real Hope?... It's JESUS CHRIST living in my HEART.

*God wanted his people throughout the world to know the glorious riches of this mystery—which is Christ living in you, giving you the hope of glory.*

Colossians 1:27 (GW)

2. Hope SPRINGS ETERNAL.

*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 16-17 (NIV)

3. Hope cannot be KEPT SILENT; it has to be SHARED.

*But in your hearts set apart 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 (NIV)