



LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES The Blessing of Hope – Jan 12 – Pastor Peter

Romans 5:3-5 “Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.”

This is the year of blessing.

Ephesian 1:3 “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.”

1. God Doesn’t Change

Hope is grounded in the deep truth that God doesn’t change.

Psalms 33:20 “We put our hope in the Lord .He is our help and our shield.”

QUESTIONS:

1. What is Hope grounded on?

2. Why is it important to know that God doesn’t change?

3. Why is God pursuing us?



LET'S GO DEEPER



And, as in so many things, it's our unchangeable God who starts it all.

We all have defining moments in our lives, moments that we'll never forget.

And for a follower of Jesus, the defining moment is that moment when you felt the tug of the Holy Spirit and you gave your life to Jesus.

Here's Paul's defining moment that he'll never forget.

Acts 26:9-15 "I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities. One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is useless for you to fight against My will.' 'Who are you, lord?' I

QUESTIONS:

4. What should our attitude be towards this truth?

5. Why is attaching yourself to the past harmful?



LET'S GO DEEPER



Matthew 11:4,5 ‘Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen - the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.’

What John prophesied and expected isn't mentioned.

But maybe God wanted to do something else.

Maybe, God wants you to experience the blessing of hope and He'll do something so amazing in your life you'll hardly be able to believe it.

3. Hope Helps us Finish Well

Hope always pushes us forward.

Philippians 3:14 “I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

What is the object of our hope?

Romans 8:29 “For He knew all about us before we were born and He destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of His Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like Him.”

QUESTIONS:

11. Why is finishing well so important?

12. Why does God want us to be more like Jesus?

13. Why does God want us to be more like Jesus?
