

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 6th December 2020
Sermon Title Hope
Bible Passage Isaiah 2:2-5 & 9:2, 6-7

Introduction

Take time to read the passages again and reflect on the below questions:

- Are there any new or different things that the scriptures have spoken to you about?

Recapping the preach

- Hope outside of Christ isn't all false hope as such, but it is always temporary.
- Contrasting 'false dawns' with the dawning of a new age in Jesus Christ.
- Hope in Christ can be trusted in all circumstances, all other hope cannot be.
- Hope is now with us 'Emmanuel' and isn't far off or on the horizon.
- Don't forget the dawning of light in the darkness, when focusing on the cross and resurrection.
- God is so wonderful he is unfathomable and beyond comprehension.
- The hope of the world came; From the Father, is full of Grace, and is full of Truth.
- Share and encourage each other with the gospel message of HOPE.

• Questions for reflection

- What kind of false dawns have we experienced in our lives that have maybe highlighted misplaced hope?
- Can you see with your approach to things, if it is Christ's birth, death or resurrection that your focus is on? Does this reveal much about you?
- In your walk with God, does your hope in him make anymore sense than in the beginning? If so, can you describe one reason that you would use to answer someone who doesn't share the same hope.

- Would you agree that it is the Christmas story that is the essence of what sets The One True God apart from all other gods? Discuss (Hints – God dying?)
- Ponder for a moment what God would look like without the element of Grace?...
- Having pondered this, can you think of any other way that God could have revealed himself to us, that would convey the truth of who he is?

• Going Deeper

- List what you know/believe/hope will be the key changes that you expect to happen when Christ ushers in the full kingdom of God in which sin is no more.
- Now look at each answer and discuss how/if that differs from the hope we have now in this life?.

Response

- Root out hope that isn't from the Father, isn't full of grace or truth.
- Allow God to shine his light on the right paths for you to take.

Prayer pointers

- For God to give us opportunities to share the hope we have with someone this week.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>