

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer
November 29, 2015
Christmas Series – First Family Christmas.
Message: Hope – Taking the Long View.

Hope in Christ is taking the Long View of life.

Colossians 1:27 “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”
2 Corinthians 4:17

The Example of Mary Mother of Jesus - Luke 1:26-34

- The Lord is beside (with) you. (v.26-28)
- God interrupts our life.
- God wants to get your attention.
- God has a different plan for you.
- God’s way is so much better.
- God wants you to trust him.

The Lord has highly favoured you. (v.29-33)

- God’s plan can trouble us. (v.29)
- God replaces fear with faith and hope.
- God will reveal his plan – wait on the Lord.

Abraham – Romans 4:18; Hebrews 6:15
Us - Titus 2:13; Romans 5:1-5

The Lord has a clear purpose for your life. (v. 34-37)

- You are part of God’s eternal plan.
- You have a unique life journey with the Lord.
- For nothing is impossible with God.
- Mary’s Response – “I am the Lord’s servant”. (v.38, 46-49)
 - Not Reacting but Responding
 - Not Demanding but Devoted

- Not Self-centered but the Lord’s humble servant.

Why does a follower of Jesus Christ have hope?

1. We Have Hope Because Jesus Christ is with us. Matthew 1:21-23
2. We Have Hope Because Jesus Christ is in us by His Spirit. John 14:23 Ephesians 3:16-17; John 14:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17
3. We Have Hope Because Jesus Christ is for us! Rom. 8:31-32, Luke 2:14
4. We Have Hope Because Jesus Christ is coming back for us. John 14:3;

Life Group Questions

- Why is taking the long view of this life so hard for us? What intrigues us so much about short term gains?
- Hebrews 11:1-2 and Romans 8:22-27 help us to develop what Biblical hope is for us. Read these passages and work on a Biblical definition of hope together.
- Take time as group to re-read the narrative from Luke 1.
- How is the Lord’s hope built into Mary’s Life?
- In what way does being “highly favoured” and having a “clear purpose” build the hope of Christ into your life?
- How does Mary’s response demonstrate her hope in the Lord?
- Who in the Bible also demonstrates hope in the Lord?
- Review and read the passages of why does a follower of Jesus have hope in this world and beyond?
- How can you and I ministry hope practically to others around us? Give two or three examples and then choose one that you will do this week to minister to someone who needs the hope of Jesus Christ.
- What is the biggest personal take away for you from this message regarding hope?

