

"A PEOPLE OF HOPE"

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Speaker: Chris Potter

KESSID

SCRIPTURE + SPIRIT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This message was prerecorded earlier in the week. In response to local and national events we are experiencing right now, we as a church have decided to shift our focus, and step further in to these difficult times in a new series with Pastor Danny, launching next week entitled 'Kaleidoscope.'

(Vs) Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ..."

Today I want to focus on a particular burden that we as Christ followers are to carry and not set down...

"Within the large context of the biblical story we learn to think accurately, behave morally, preach passionately, sing joyfully, pray honestly, obey faithfully. But we dare not abandon the story as we do any or all of these things, for the minute we abandon the story, we reduce reality to the dimensions of our minds and feelings and experience. The moment we formulate our doctrines, draw up our moral codes, and throw ourselves into a life of ministry apart from a continuous re-immersion in the story itself, we walk right out of the presence and activity of God and set up our own shop." - Eugene Peterson

- The story tells us that, **"The People of God are a People of Hope"**
- Today I want to focus on that truth...
- Breathing - Hands on Knees
- Bible is meditation literature (not meant to be understood on first reading)
- It is a collection of stories that we have to "deeply breath in."

*(Vs.) Romans 15:13 (NIV) - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

The word used by Paul here for hope is "Elpis" in Greek and the basic meaning is a sense of expectation.

- Fear - The anticipation of future suffering
- Hope - The expectation of future good

Now this is a definition of hope in general, but not a Biblical definition, not the definition for a Christ-follower.

- As followers of Jesus, the object of our Hope is God Himself.

Biblical Hope – The absolute expectation of future good based on the person and promises of God.

- Hope is not simply positivity, or denial, or wishful thinking, it is honest about things like Covid-19, or unemployment, and not being able to gather physically as a church for months at a time. Jesus Himself said that, *“In this world you will have trouble.”* (John 16).

Hope brings with it an innate confidence that God is at work bringing forth Good into the world in spite of the brokenness we see.

- Right now, our world is clamoring for hope. There is an unspoken starvation for it just below the surface.
- **Thought:** Our story is one of hope, from Abraham, to the Israelites crying out from Egypt to those wandering in the desert, to the prophets and David, to the generations waiting hundreds of years for a messiah, to John the Baptist and the disciples and early church... not only do we need to deeply breath in these stories but we have a responsibility to continue them on because **the people of God are a people of hope!**
- Hope needs something to attach to onto to fix itself onto. An object, and the best way to clarify our vision of Hope is with the Scriptures as our guide...

What do we put our hope in?

- That Jesus will “make all things new.”
 - Jesus storybook Bible – “Jesus will make all the bad things untrue.”
 - “We live between the comings of Jesus, the first and the second, and hope is what connects the past to the future.”
 - That Jesus is with us in our troubles.
 - “In this world you will have trouble”
 - ... Next Line, *“take heart, I have overcome the world.”*
- Last words right before His ascension to heaven were a reminder that, *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- That Jesus will use our troubles.
- If we let him teach us, he will show us how to plant these troubles in a way that brings a harvest of... that moves us continually towards Christ-likeness.

Re-Constructing – Love and Eye-Contact

- (Vs.) Romans 5:1-5... Suffering Produces Endurance
- For hope to take root in your life suffering is required
- Paul – “Rejoice In our sufferings...”

Endurance Produces Character

"To fulfill the high calling which God has placed upon us in creating us and redeeming us, we must have the right inner character. We must come to grips with who we really are, inside and out. For we will do what we are." – Dallas Willard

Character Produces Hope

- Hope does not disappoint!

"Hope is a process, and we participate in it as we are able." – Walter Bruggemann

We put our hope back where it belongs..

- In the fact that Jesus is making all things new
- That he is with us in our sufferings and troubles
- And that he will use them for good

(Vs.) Proverbs 23:18 – "For surely there is a future hope; and your expectation shall not be cut off."

- We right now are harvesting the hope that was cultivated by generations of Christians before us. "WE" share in it..
- *We have a message of hope and we are called to embody this hope!*

*(Vs.) Romans 15:13 (NIV) – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

- We celebrate this story in every circumstance. We tell it and re-tell it so that we remember who we are as God's children, "**The People of Hope**".