**The Greatest - Wk 5 – The Greatest Hope**

 **We are started the New Year on the greatest principles in scripture!**

**\*\* The Greatest Reason - We exist for the glory of God.**

**Rom 11:36 – This is the meaning of life.**

**\*\* The Greatest Command – over everything in the Bible.**

**Mark 12:31 - This is to be the desire of our life.**

**\*\* The Greatest Purpose - The great commission**

**Matthew 28:19-20 – This is our purpose in life.**

**\*\* The Greatest Gift – The Holy Spirit!**

**Acts 1**:**8 – This is the explosive miraculous power of God in our life!**

**Today – one more – and a truly great one**

**The Greatest HOPE – The Return of Jesus!**

**There is so much to talk about with this.**

**What is Biblical Hope?**

**Hope is a confusing word - I hope I make it – I hope this works**

**\*\*\* HOPE in the NT = a miraculous knowing / supernatural confidence**

**The NT the word literally means - confident expectation**

* **External hope (The world’s) is a probability**

**Hope, as defined by the world, is a feeling based on external things.**

**The diagnosis is good, interview was good, weather looks positive, I feel good about it. Things look good, I am hopeful - I feel positive.**

* **Eternal hope (The LORD’s) is an absolute**

**Biblical Hope is completely different – than the world’s hope.**

**Hebrew 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**

**Agnostic (a) = not / (gno)stic = to know - cannot know.**

**But the Bible says you can absolutely know Jesus and his coming.**

**Hope in what?**

**\*\*\* OUR HOPE - is in the return of Jesus and the coming kingdom.**

**Hope - in the NT, nearly every time is a reference to the kingdom of heaven – the return of Jesus.**

**Titus 2:13 We wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

**The Return - of Jesus and the king – Jesus said he would return.**

**Acts 1:10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”**

**The first Advent – Christmas, the cross, resurrection, & ascension. He said he was leaving. He said he would return.**

**Heb 9:28 So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.**

**1st coming - spiritual sickness // 2nd coming - physical sickness.**

**1st coming - to redeem // 2nd coming - to rescue the redeemed**

**That is what we are looking for and waiting for. That is our hope.**

**Col 1:4 We heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel.**

**Paul says the three greatest human attributes are: 1 Cor 14:1 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

**Faith is a Holy Spirit ignited trust in God.**

**Hope is a Holy Spirit ignited confidence in God.**

**Love is a Holy Spirit ignited compassion for everyone.**

**Closely related, they are diff from the world’s versions of each.**

**Our greatest hope is the coming of Jesus Christ! The Great Return! We don’t see it now - but we look for it.**

**Why is this return so hopeful? (for a Christian – a follower of Jesus)**

**Because the hope of eternal life will finally be realized!**

**When Christ returns**

1. **The hope of the end of all suffering! (Rev 21:1-3, Is 65:17)**

**It will be pure fulfilling joy! No more sorrow, no weeping, no pain.**

1. **The hope of a new body and new mind! (Phil 3:20-21, 1 Cor 15:20-58)**

**It will be without sickness and death!**

**Those in Christ will be transformed! Our glorification!**

**Philippians 3:20 Our citizenship is in heaven… we eagerly wait for our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to return 21 He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own…**

1. **The hope of a new world! (James 1:17, 1 Cor 2:9, Ro 8:18-23, Rev 21)**

**It will be amazingly beautiful! Creation is looking and waiting!**

**Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.**

**23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

1. **The hope of seeing loved ones in Christ. (Phil 3:20-21, 1 Cor 13:12)**

**It will be an eternal reunion!**

**We mourn for them… but no longer on that day!**

1. **The hope of truly knowing our glorious savior!**

**We will see him face to face! (Ps 84:10, Ps 16:11, 1Jo 3:2, Rev 7:9-10)**

**I John 3:2 - We do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is…**

**Can you see it! - Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people…**

**This Hope and assurance of God’s goodness is presently given and something to be revealed.**

* **OT - Jesus is predicted // Gospels – Jesus is revealed**
* **In Acts – Jesus is preached // In the epistles - Jesus is explained**
* **In Revelation – he is expected // Our response is – submission**

**How can we know this for sure? How can you be so confident?**

**\*\* It’s a confidence based on God’s character**

**The omnipotent power and ability to do all things - He wills to do!**

**Because the LORD is all-powerful, there is hope.**

**Hebrews 6:17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain…**

**Our hope – our anchor – our confidence – is Jesus – I am an adopted son – an heir – I am His – he walks before me.**

**\*\* A confidence based on God’s track record**

**God has shown himself to be faithful and true – time and again.**

**Because the LORD cannot contradict himself, there is hope.**

**Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**God is forever faithful!! We can have confident hope in him!**

**\*\* A confidence based on the resurrection of Jesus**

**Because the tomb is empty – He is coming back! And everything he said is true – every promise will be fulfilled.**

**\*\* As sure as he came – he’s coming again!**

**\*\* A confidence based on empowering Holy Spirit**

**Jesus sent us the HS as an earnest payment for the coming glory.**

**2 Cor 5:5 - Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (Ephesians 1:14)**

**HS testifies that it is true. Because of the HS in us – we have hope!**

**It is this hope that causes a true Christian to persevere**

**Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**Trials and suffering produce even more hope in a Christian! How?**

**They teach us to rely on Christ and we endure because we know the kingdom is coming. We have that hope.**

**2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

**We will face opposition and resistance in life! But our faith, like a stone in a storm, is unmovable and unyielding.**