



## ”Advent: Hope Entered The World”, Pastor Doug’s

Sermon, 11/25/2012

Hook: We live in a World where there is a lot of discouragement, discontent and yes even disillusionment with one thing or another.

-Will we go over the physical cliff the first of the year and our economy as a nation crumble?

-Will the war in Afghanistan, Syria, Israel/Gaza trigger something greater World War wise?

-The Church appears to be less affective in our culture not making the difference it should?

-Hopelessness is not a disease but it is plaguing our culture and rendering many helpless and in effective as a Christ follower!

+May I propose to you this thought, “That which we fix our eyes on is that which determines the amount of true “Hope” we will have.”

**-Hope defined:** “CONFIDENT/FAVORABLE EXPECTATION OF FUTURE GOOD! You can depend on it, it is a sure thing, we don’t have to wonder!

-**Children of Israel** in the OT when they left Egypt, God had promised them “Land-Seed & that He would bless them.” Then they confront the Red Sea---grumbling-disputing-It would have been better if we would have stayed in Egypt.

-**Hopeless**—They even had God right there with them, cloud by day—Pillar of fire—by night.

-David—Teenager—Goliath---Fought for the glory of God---His brothers frightened and hopeless. Yet this young man David went into the valley against insurmountable odds!!!

-Shadrach—Mesach-Abendego—Fiery furnace---Neb..They knew God would deliver them and even if He did not physically---they would not bow down to Neb...Hope entered into the furnace

-Daniel—when cast into the lions den—all around felt it was hopeless for Daniel—Yet HOPE entered into the lions den...

-But friends---in Daniels case, as in his three friends, and David etc. in the OT “THAT HOPE KEPT LEAVING.”



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-Some 2000 years ago on that wonderful First Christmas---HOPE entered permanently into the World. Because of that on Nov. 26, 2001, about 8:30 AM in our living room at 5 Camelot Way, we could stand around the bedside of Farrol’s mom as she was taking her last breaths---and HAVE CONFIDENT/FAVOARBLE EXPECTATION OF FUTURE GOOD! It was the HOPE of Jesus Christ—who as the King of glory, left His throne in Heaven—became a cell in His mothers womb—later as the Pure-Spotless-Lamb of God—Paid the Penalty Once for all time on that Good Friday Cross-Defeated Sin & Death and Rose victorious---Giving us HOPE beyond the Grave when we put our Faith and Trust in Him for Salvation!!!

-Let’s examine what the basis of this kind of “HOPE” is:

1. Rom. 15:13—Very essence of God’s nature is Hope
2. Rom. 15:4—Persevering in the Word of God brings Hope
3. Acts 26:6,7—God’s promises bring Hope!

**-John 1:14**, For Hope entered the World in the form of a babe in the manger, The Very Incarnation of Christ Bring HOPE!

**-Advent—“The Coming,” “The Arrival of HOPE!!!”**

**-Jesus the “Hope of the World!”**

-The Word “**Hope**” is not like the definition that most of us think of when we use it like this:

- I sure hope the economy doesn’t crash
- I sure hope my favorite team wins
- I sure hope that I lose this weight I just gained over Thanksgiving....

-When do we receive this “HOPE?” Col. 1:25-27—When we believe and receive Christ!

-Our “Hope” is only as great as the object or person we put our hope in:

- Our **job** won’t bring that satisfaction
- Our **spouse** or family won’t bring that kind of lasting confidence
- Our favorite **hobby** won’t that kind of Future Good!
- Our **Church** we attend should be good, and doing what it can for His glory—But...



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-These will fail—Human institutions---They will fail!

**-Psalm 39:7.** “For now Lord, for what do I wait? My HOPE is in Thee!” Hope in Christ alone is what lasts and by the way makes all those other things more meaningful....

**-1 Cor. 15:19,20.** “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

**-1 Tim. 1:1**, in Paul’s intro to this significant letter, “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of god our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, **who is our hope.**”

**-HOPE—That Confident/Favorable Expectation of future good!**

**-Heb. 6:19-20—**

**-Rom. 12:12**, “Rejoice in Hope,”

**-1 Pet. 1:3**, “because He is the living Hope!”

-We are no different than any family—But I will never forget going into Farrol’s mom’s memorial service---she planned it by the way---wanted her grandson Matt to do the preaching---me to just welcome and into the service and close in prayer, but nothing more.

-I asked Matt the day of the service—how he was doing---He said, “as long as I get to the cross and the empty tomb” I will be all right.HOPE!!!! **CONFIDENT/FAVORABLE EXPECTATION OF FUTURE GOOD!**

-Friends, must grasp, “Stability, Security, Assurance comes not from us, but from the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

-Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter for the Christ Follower a wonderful reminder of the Hope that is ours in and through Jesus Christ!

**Advent---The Coming---The Arrival of Hope for all!**