

“God with Us: Got Hope?”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – November 30, 2014

1 Peter 3:15

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...

4 FACTS ABOUT HOPE:

1. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHIMSICAL, FANCIFUL HOPE AND CHRISTIAN HOPE

Heb 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

2. HOPE DEMONSTRATES TO THE WORLD THAT WE BELONG TO CHRIST

1 Thess 4:13

13 ... we do not want you to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

3. NON-BELIEVERS CANNOT HAVE CHRISTIAN HOPE

Eph 2:12

12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, ... without hope and without God in the world.

4. THE OPPOSITE OF HOPE IS DESPAIR (OR DISCOURAGEMENT)

3 FACTS ABOUT DISCOURAGEMENT:

1. CHRISTIAN HOPE COMES FROM GOD... DISCOURAGEMENT COMES FROM SATAN

2. DISCOURAGEMENT IS ONE OF SATAN'S MAIN WEAPONS AGAINST US

3. DISCOURAGEMENT IS NOT A CONDITION, IT'S A CHOICE!

3 KEYS TO OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT:

1. SET YOUR HEART AND MIND ON GOD

Col 3:1-3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Ps 16:8

I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

2. EXPECT TRIALS IN THIS LIFE

1 Peter 1:3-8

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4-5 ... 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

3. TAKE OUR EYES OFF OURSELVES AND PLACE THEM ON CHRIST

Hebrews 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.