

HOPE IN THE D A R K

This is our hope in the dark:

:: Jesus is [ALIVE](#).

:: Jesus is [KING](#).

Romans 15:13

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.

Colossians 3:1-4

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 2:10, 13-15

¹⁰For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority... ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Because of this hope...

...we have ASSURANCE.

... we have COURAGE.

Romans 15:5-6

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Where do you need to choose hope
for the sake of others?**

Romans 4:17b

...[He is] the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

NOTES:

“Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians...is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.”

— N.T. Wright



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone, wandered & need to come home.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

What has been especially encouraging for you about the “Hope in the Dark” journey thus far? What has been challenging?

Read/Review Romans 15:1-13, focusing especially on verses 5, 6, and 13.

- :: What do you think it looks like to encourage one another toward hope? How can we be active in giving courage and assurance to each other?*
- :: How do you think joy, peace, and hope are related?*

Reread the Colossians passages (2:10,13-15; 3:1-4) from the weekend message.

- :: Where do you see hope at work in these verses?*
- :: How does these scriptures shape your awareness/understanding of Jesus as the Risen and Living King?*
- :: What do you think is the significance of the writer saying that “in Christ, you **have been** brought to fullness” (NIV) rather than “you **will be** brought to fullness”?*

What do you think are evidences that we are living in hope? What are some symptoms that hope is lacking in us or others?

Pastor Jeremiah said that not only is everything going to be okay, but it is okay because Jesus is alive and he is King.

- :: Where is it easy for you to see this as true?*
- :: Where are you struggling to accept or receive this as true?*
- :: Invite someone you trust to pray for and encourage you in this place of struggle; what does it look like to do the same for them?*

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
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