

I. Intro

A. Today is the last day of our Advent message series, Merry Christmas!

1. I pray this season has stirred you for Jesus
2. I pray you have a new desire to live in peace, love like Jesus, and worship with joy
3. I pray you are looking with anticipation and hope that He will return soon

B. Hope is the final theme we are going to study today

1. Like we did with joy, let's start by defining hope
2. Worldly hope is basically wishful thinking
 - a) "I hope my boss notices my hard work"
 - b) "I hope this Christmas party ends soon"
3. Biblical hope is an inner feeling that something good will happen
 - a) It includes expectation - "I look forward to this happening"
 - b) It includes desire - "I really want this to happen"
 - c) It includes confidence - "I know this is going to happen"

C. What is this thing that we "really want to happen"

1. Titus 2:11-14

- a) Paul describes the ultimate target of our hope in God is His final return
 - b) All the pain in this world will be swallowed up when He returns
 - c) All our expectations, desires, and confidence will be satisfied when Jesus shows up
2. Working backward from our "blessed hope" we hope in God for daily things
- a) We stir our expectations to visit us on a daily basis
 - b) We grow in our desire to see Him now
 - c) We increase in our confidence that He loves us and cares for us

D. Hope is great, but it's just the beginning

II. Text

A. Hebrews 11:1

1. *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. -
ESV*

2. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
- KJV
3. In both translations, hope materializes into faith
 - a) The writer of Hebrews is saying: All that expectation, desire, and confidence grows and grows until it becomes faith
 - b) The rest of Hebrews 11 shows us that faith produces action and ultimately changes the world

(1) Hebrews 11:29-40

- B. So, let's recap hope:
1. It starts with your expectations, desires, and confidence being stirred for His second arrival / advent (Blessed hope)
 2. Your expectation, desires, and confidence then get stirred for God to arrive in your daily life (Daily Christian hope)
 3. All this hope grows and grows, and becomes a substance called faith
 4. Faith is so tangible and assuring that we get up and start changing things
 5. This change in our lives leads to change in the outside world
 6. This brings us closer to the reality of His second advent, our blessed hope

III. Conclusion

- A. As we stand on the eve of another Christmas, ask yourself:
1. What do I hope for most?
 - a) What am I expecting most?
 - b) What do I desire most?
 - c) What am I most confident in?
 2. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:19 - *If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*
 - a) My desire for this church is for every expectation, desire, and confidence that is not Jesus fades from your life
 - b) This Christmas, be like David in Psalm 42:5 - "HOPE IN GOD"