

The Hope Of Christmas

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“Christmas is not a story of hope: It is hope”. – Craig D. Lounsbrough.

Oh Holy Night.

Oh, holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Romans 12:12a – *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer ...”*.

What Is Hope?

“To Hope” – “to anticipate with pleasure: expectation, confidence”.

1 Timothy 1:1, NIV – (1) *“... Christ Jesus our hope.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:16, NIV – (16) *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope.*

1 Peter 1:3, NIV – (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.*

Titus 1:2; 3:7, NIV – (2) *a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life ... (7) having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

What Does Hope Do For Us?

It will not disappoint – Romans 5:5

It protects our minds – 1 Thessalonians 5:8

It gives us stability in rough times – our Anchor,.

It is a person, Jesus – Hebrews 6:18,19

It draws us near to God – Hebrews 7:19

It purifies us – 1 John 3:3

It makes our “hearts rejoice, our tongue glad (edified speech) and our flesh rest (peace) Acts 2:26, Psalm 16:8-11.

My Hope.

James 1:4, NIV – *(4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

How Do We Become Hopeful?

Romans 15:4, NIV – *(4) For everything that was written in the past was written to us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, NIV – *(16) May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, (17) encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

Romans 15:13, NIV – *(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.*