

November Teaching Theme: Wisdom/Advent

讲员 Speaker: Jacob 陈云传道 Chen

题目 Topic: God of Hope

经文 Scripture: Romans 15:13

Monthly Theme: In the beginning portion of this month we have taken a look at the larger movements of Wisdom Literature in the Bible. This week we will make a transition as this is the beginning of the Advent season on the global church calendar. Advent means “the coming” and is a time when we both celebrate Jesus’ first coming and wait expectantly for Jesus’ return to make all things right. The Christian observation of Advent reorients us to a season of denial and self-examination rather than that of rampant accumulation, consumption, and self-indulgence so often experienced during the holidays. The Christian must choose formation in the ways of Jesus as opposed to the ways of the world. To explore what Advent seasons message to us we are going to examine Hope, Faith, Joy, Jesus’ Birth Narrative, and the Peace of God. This week Jacob Chen has helped us examine Hope.

Resources:

[Bible Project Video: Yakhal/Hope](#) [English 4 mins - You May Turn on Chinese Subtitles on Youtube]

[Sermon Video](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Romans 15:13 together. What observation do you make and what stands out to you? What does this passage speak to you?
2. 在疫情中，你有什么盼望吗？In the epidemic, do you have any hope?
3. 耶稣再来的盼望，在你当下的生活中有什么意义和影响？What is the meaning and influence of the hope of Jesus' return in your current life? How does this change how you live in the present?
4. 你觉得将来主会给你什么样的冠冕？What kind of crown do you think the Lord will give you in the future? (See 2 Tim 4:8) How does this motivate you towards faithful service in the present? (Recall Christian Hope is not Passive but Active)
5. Christian hope is not based on my circumstances or odds but is based on God himself. How does this make Christian hope different from optimism or “being positive”?
6. What are some ways God has shown Himself faithful to those in the past (Bible or Other History) and to you in the present? (Remember, we look forward by looking backward!)

Important Notes (Pastor Will):

Notes on Romans 15:13:

- Paul ends his argument of the previous chapter with this short prayer for his readers. Paul characterizes God as the *God of Hope* making God both the source of our hope and the object of our hope. Hope in God is an act of faith and trust in God through the power of the Holy Spirit that will result in a life characterized by profound joy and peace. Recall this does not mean Christians don't experience other emotions but that we have a

foundational emotional disposition of joy and peace as God grants us a new perspective on life. This cycle of our walk with God results in an ever-increasing hope and anticipation for the Lord to return and make all things right.

- “No one can really hope unless by faith he turns away from the past, that is, from himself, to offer himself to God who is the Creator and Dispenser of the world to come.” - Leenhardt

Notes on Q2:

- Remember, what God has done in Jesus is a foretaste of what God is going to do for all of creation when King Jesus returns. All of creation will be liberated in Jesus’ return. Christian Hope spurs us on to live in light of this future reality. We are acting in hope and faith when we seek to make our spaces like “Heaven on Earth.”
 - Examples of actions that make space like “Heaven on Earth.”
 - When we choose to seek justice on behalf of the oppressed, we are giving people a taste of “Heaven on Earth,” where all creation will be liberated under the King of righteousness and justice.
 - When we choose to live sexually pure lives, committed to the covenant of marriage, we are giving people a taste of “Heaven on Earth,” where all of our relationships will no longer be characterized by brokenness.
 - When we choose to give generously, we are giving people a taste of “Heaven on Earth,” where need, poverty, and greed will no longer exist.
 - What are some other examples you can think of? (This will prepare you for next week’s talk on Christian faith as well! :)

Notes on Q5:

- First, Christian hope is honest with the realities of our broken world. The Christian knows how to walk through suffering, grief, and lament. (Just read the Psalms and Prophets!)
- Second, Christian hope is an act of trust in waiting on God and living well in the tension of that waiting. It is a choice to wait for God to bring about a future. It’s God’s past faithfulness that motivates hope for the future. Hope is an act of trusting in God’s character.
- Christian Hope (similar to Faith we will talk about next week) is fueled by a vision of how the world can be and will be when King Jesus returns and the New Heaven & New Earth is in its fullness. It is an act of faith grounded in Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension, confirmed by hundreds of eye witness testimonies. The Kingdom of God is coming and our hope is fueled by that vision.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

使人有盼望的神

—陈云传道，11/29/20

“但愿使人有盼望的神，因信将诸般的喜乐、平安充满你们的心，使你们借着圣灵的能力大有盼望！”
罗马书 15:13

“愿颂赞归与我们主耶稣基督的父 神！他曾照自己的大怜悯，借耶稣基督从死里复活，重生了我们，叫我们有活泼的盼望，可以得着不能朽坏、不能玷污、不能衰残、为你们存留在天上的基业。”

彼得前书 1:3-4

1, 盼望与人生

-盼望的定义：殷切的等候，期望

-现状，盼望，憧憬，关系

-盼望与生命，传道书9:4 “与一切活人相连的，那人还有指望，因为活着的狗比死了的狮子更强。”

失去盼望，生命的活力就失去了

2, 我们盼望来自那里

-盼望从神而来。

一个邀请：神能给我们盼望，生命平淡麻木的时候，神气把盼望注入你生命中

一个提醒：只能神给我们真实的，永恒的盼望，而不是把盼望建立在世上。

-盼望不是逃避现实

客观基础：建立在神的作为和圣灵的大能的基础上。

主观经历：真实的盼望是我们自己的内心可以感受得到的喜乐和平安充满你们的心

为什么有些基督徒缺乏从神而来的盼望？地上事情拥挤了属天的盼望。

灵魂需要锚，锚就是盼望，帮助我们度过有风浪的人生。灵魂的锚稳定我们在有风浪的时代中。

3, 我们盼望什么？

-耶稣第二次再来。神的国显示，神的同在。

如果不盼望，是因为对主恩的滋味的经历。如果没有尝到主恩的滋味，也不知道好坏，也就难以有盼望

-盼望一个冠冕，爱主，将来得赏赐，是神的应许。

提后4:8：“从此以后，有公义的冠冕为我存留，就是按着公义审判的主到了那日要赐给我的；不但赐给我，也赐给凡爱慕他显现的人。”

“主人说：『好，你这又良善又忠心的仆人，你在不多的事上有忠心，我要把许多事派你管理；可以进来享受你主人的快乐。』”

马太福音 25:21

-盼望身体的复活

“不但如此，就是我们这有 圣 灵初结果子的，也是自己心里叹息，等候得着儿子的名分，乃是我们的身体得赎。我们得救是在乎盼望；只是所见的盼望不是盼望，谁还盼望他所见的呢？但我们若盼望那所不见的，就必忍耐等候。”

罗马书 8:23-25

-盼望天上的基业，

彼前1:3-4，“愿颂赞归与我们主耶稣基督的父 神！他曾照自己的大怜悯，借耶稣基督从死里复活，重生了我们，叫我们有活泼的盼望，可以得着不能朽坏、不能玷污、不能衰残、为你们存留在天上的基业。”

彼得前书 1:3-4

搬家的经验，搬去的地方（天家）我们不用担心，一切都安排好了。

不是要放弃地上的基业，这可以使我们通过地上的基业，改变，成熟为将来所用。

4, 盼望如何改变当下

-看待今生以眼光。腓3:20，“愿颂赞归与我们主耶稣基督的父 神！他曾照自己的大怜悯，借耶稣基督从死里复活，重生了我们，叫我们有活泼的盼望，可以得着不能朽坏、不能玷污、不能衰残、为你们存留在天上的基业。”

彼得前书 1:3-4

彼前2:11 “亲爱的 弟兄 啊，你们是客旅，是寄居的。我劝你们要禁戒肉体的私欲；这私欲是与灵魂争战的。”

旅馆和家的不同。如果有这样的眼光就不会，注目在世上。

-洁净自己，“凡向他有这指望的，就洁净自己，像他洁净一样。”
约翰一书 3:3

洁净和等待耶稣再来。重点不是耶稣再来的地方或时间，而是要洁净自己。只有洁净是对耶稣再来的尊重，例如有客人来我们会要先打扫卫生。不是何时来要讨论的，不必要的，猜测是无益的。判断末日信息的标准是信息的果效是什么，是否带来悔改认罪，如不是就是错。

-为主节制，

林前9:24-25 “岂不知在场上赛跑的都跑，但得奖赏的只有一人？你们也当这样跑，好叫你们得着奖赏。凡较力争胜的，诸事都有节制，他们不过是要得能坏的冠冕；我们却是要得不能坏的冠冕。”

诸事节制，性欲上的节制，饮食，消费，等。如没节制，没有为主的奔跑，如何能得到冠冕。

God of Hope
Jacob Chen
Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 1:3-4

“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.”
Romans 15:13 NIV

“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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,”
1 Peter 1:3-4

Today Jacob's third child is a month old, he and his wife are thankful for the help from brothers and sisters of LCCC in the past month.
Our God is the God of Hope, the hope not found in this world. This hope for the future can change our life in the present. Give us strength to stand firm in the storms today. Awake the Hope inside of us.

First message of Advent, HOPE!

1. Hope and Life

What is Hope? Eagerly wait/longing

Present situation, _Hope, _longing

Y:Power upon present

X:Distance future

Our hope for the future gives us power to change the present situation

The internal tension of Hope,

Tight connection of life,

Ecce 9:4

A live dog is better than a dead lion

If lost Hope, a person can be in a desperate condition

Christian Hope

2. Where is our Hope come from?

Romans 15:13

Hope comes from God

God is the Lord of Hope, who produces hope, who gives out hope
An invitation: if you are losing the hope of your life, you can come to God
A reminder: only God can do. Don't put our Hope on people, such as your sons, your children, in a typical Chinese way, expect our children to accomplish what we couldn't
Neither on money nor material things
Stable foundation is the almighty God
Is this thinking a mere escape of the reality? Since Hope is subjective?
The hope in the Scriptures has objective foundation, not mirage
It's the work of HS
Subjective experience. We can feel it, the peace and joy in our heart. Only we know our hope is true or not, can't lie to our own heart, hope creates power to live in the present
Although the hope is beautiful, why many Christians have no hope?
The worldly things become our Hope, prevent us to have the true hope
Book of Hebrew: hope and anchor for the soul, firm and secure, inner sanctuary
This heavenly hope is our anchor, we need it. Look inside of your heart, do you have the anchor?
What are we hoping for?
The second coming of Jesus
Tutus 2:13
The core hope for all Christians
Revelation the second to last sentence, Jesus, come!
God's kingdom will be revealed completely. The highest hope and expectation.
Sometimes we have no hope, one reason is lack of experience of god's grace. Like a baby, who only wants to sleep, to drink milk, to be held by mom, because those are the only things the baby has experienced.
So experience God in our life, then we will have blessed hope.
Hope for a crown
2timothy: crown of righteousness, to all who longs for his appearance.
Look forward to this moment in the future, the reward of crown affirms our service for the lord.
The servant of faithful, to come and join the meal w/ the Lord
Hope for a resurrected body
Romans: wait earnestly for the redemption of our bodies
During the pandemic, we feel so vulnerable
Hope for heavenly heritage
1peter 1:3-4 living hope
Our inheritance is kept in heaven, will not perish, spoil or fade
Experience of moving—move to the heavenly house Jesus prepares for us, good is waiting us to receive
So meditate on this hope
Not that we will give up hard work on earth. But to prepare us, to shape our character while on earth
How does Hope change our present?
Not wait passively
This Hope makes a powerful impact in our present life, on our world view
Philippians 3: their god is their stomach; we are different, our citizenship is in heaven
2 Peter 2:11 foreigners on earth
The difference b/w a hotel and your home
Our real home is in heaven
No matter which country is our citizenship
Don't confine our heart on earth
Purify ourselves
1john 3:2-3 purify us just as He is pure

"Purify" in continuing tense "purifying"

No matter exactly which day Jesus will be back, but be prepared for His return is the key

Like cleaning our house because an important guest will come.

Ask so what?

Instead of feeling excited, repent ourselves; instead of arguing the date our Lord is coming. Two~three hundreds years ago people was already guessing that, nothing new!!!

1cor 9:24-25

Training! Only one winner in a running race. Have self-control, discipline among all things.

Focus on serving the lord, so we can get the crown.

Black Friday shopping

Eat and drink

In EVERYTHING we do!

busy in serving the Lord

Not waste our time

A man reaps what he sows.