

"YET HOPE"

Week 7

KEY PASSAGES:

Lamentations 3:21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

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.

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:19-21 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Revelation 21:4-5 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Mt 24:36 But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Acts 2:17-18 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Rev 22:20-21: "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

2 Peter 3:4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:8-9 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Col. 4:5-6 AMP: Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders, make the most of each opportunity, treating it as something precious. Let your speech at all times be gracious and pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer each one who questions you.

1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

John 16:33 "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 1:3-4 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.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did you get a chance to attend the NHCC lot party? What did you enjoy? What treasures did you come away with?
2. In New Testament times, self-reliance and self-achievement were prized highly, so hope in something *outside* yourself was seen as weak, lazy, and a sign of failure. How would you compare that with our culture today?
3. When you think of the 'last days', what imagery comes to mind?
4. How do you feel about the idea of Jesus coming back? Are you excited? Fearful? Skeptical? Why?
5. Read Romans 8:19-21 above, then respond to this statement from Sunday: "Jesus is coming back to fix what is broken, not to destroy what is broken."
6. Read Revelation 21:4-5 above and share what thoughts or emotions that inspires in you.
7. Read 2 Peter 3:8-9. God is waiting because of His patience, His desire for more people to come into a saving relationship with Jesus. Do you feel any sense of responsibility in that?
8. Read the Colossians verse above, and then also consider where we are told in Hebrews to be "encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." What can you gather about our responsibility in our times here on earth before Jesus comes back?