

WAITING IN HOPE

Psalm 130

Romans 8:18-25

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you observe Advent? If so, what practices are meaningful to you? If someone asked you to define the purpose and meaning of Advent, what would you say?
- What is hope? When or how has hope played an important role in your life?

Hope is waiting with the expectation that something is possible, that something will happen. This defines Advent waiting. As Christians we are people waiting in hope for Christ to return and complete his last step of redeeming all creation and establishing his kingdom. We wait with expectation for this to happen because Christ himself promised it will happen. During Advent we revisit the biblical stories and fulfilled prophecies of Christ's first coming and the promises of his coming again. Join us as we begin our Advent journey by reflecting on the biblical meaning of hope!

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why does celebrating Christmas give us hope for Christ's return?
- In segment 2, host Dave Bast says hope is believing in God's promises even when it looks like it may not be coming true. When have you found it challenging to maintain hope? What practices or events supported you during that time and helped you maintain your hope?
- What are you doing to keep your hope in God's promises alive?
- How are you helping to reverse the consequences of sin in this world and on creation while you wait patiently for Christ to return and reverse all the consequences once and for all? If you believe the world has a future, how are you investing in it?

Related Passages

- **Genesis 3:14-19**
- **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- **Hebrews 11**
- **Matthew 25:31-46**

Conclusion

Read Psalm 33:20-22

We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

In the coming weeks of Advent, return to this passage; pray these words and reflect upon them. How has God shown himself to be your help and shield already? Why does your heart rejoice in him? As you attend services and remember Christ's birth and incarnation, allow these verses to remind you where your hope is rooted, what you hope for, and how you can live into that hope.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/waiting-in-hope>

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