

HOLDING ON TO HOPE!
Lamentations 3:19-33; I Peter 1:13b

INTRO. Prov. 13:12 - "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." Remember the OT word "heart" includes our mind, will, and emotions. And the word "sick" in this verse means to be weakened.

I. HOLDING ONTO HOPE

A. As we remember struggles, we must also remember _____, because God brings hope, even in the midst of struggle. V. 19-21

Don't lose sight of God!

It's ok to remember the struggles – just don't get _____ there!

B. As we remember God, it helps us realize that no matter how hard the struggle is, without God's mercies it could have been _____. V. 22

As we acknowledge the struggle, try to remember to look for some _____ !!

C. Hope tells me God is actively involved in my life FOR MY GOOD. V. 25,26; Rom. 8:28, 29

D. I need hope because I will face _____ times. V. 27-30

E. Hope assures me that God's love will win out in the end. V. 31-32

"If God brings you TO it, He will bring you _____ it!"

Ps. 42:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

II. WHAT HOPE IS NOT

A. Sentimental feeling - our emotions can be manipulated.

B. Pride or arrogance - "I know I can handle it"

C. A substitute for laziness or foolish planning.

D. A desire that God will violate His Word.

III. WHAT HOPE IS

Hope is closely related to faith. Heb. 11:1 – "faith is the substance of things hoped for." Someone has defined hope as the vestibule (foyer) of faith. Faith deals with the details; hope deals with the largeness of life itself – the _____ picture. Faith centers on specific and definite objects; hope centers on _____. If we didn't have hope, we wouldn't have faith. I have hope in God – He WILL take care of me. That gives me the context for my faith, which brings substance to what I'm hoping for.

A couple of definitions: Hope is "the conviction that something will happen in the future. But for that conviction to exist there has to be some kind of basis". Hope is "a full assurance, or strong confidence that God is going to do good to us in the future".

A. Hope is directed toward the _____.

B. Hope is _____ in God's help. Hope is the confident, trusting expectation that God will keep His Word.

Ps. 42:11- Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

C. Hope is _____ -centered. Col. 1:27 - Christ in you, the hope of glory; I Tim. 1:1 - Christ, who is our hope.

D. Hope is demonstrated in stability, steadfastness, and certainty. Heb. 6:18,19 – (since) it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure

Ps. 43:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

IV. HOPE CAN - AND MUST - BE CULTIVATED - I PETER 1:13

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming.”

When you take it apart grammatically, what you find is that being able to “set our hope” comes from having “minds that are alert and fully sober.”

“alert” is the idea of “being _____.”

“sober” means to be self-controlled – that our emotions are under _____ control.

A. Remember that hope is something we are _____ into - I Peter 1:3 “new birth into a living hope” We have this hope BECAUSE we are in the family of God.

B. Remember that our hope is based in Christ’s resurrection - 1:3

C. Remember that this hope will be fully realized only when Christ _____ to earth - 1:13; Titus 2:13 - Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We can have hope in the midst of struggle because we KNOW what the future holds!

