

Our Only Hope
1 Peter 1:3; John 20:1-18

Central Truth: The resurrection of Jesus Christ ensures every Christian that he/she can have an abundant life filled with hope.

Do you ever experience hopelessness?

What does God's Word say?

"And now Lord, what do I wait for? My **hope** is in You. (Psalm 39:7)

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior, and LORD Jesus Christ, which is our hope." (1 Timothy 1:1)

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the Hope of Glory." (Colossians 1:27)

1. Jesus is our only hope when all seems **lost**. (John 20:1-2)

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

2. Jesus is our only hope during times of **grief**. (John 20:11-15)

"Though I speak, my **grief** is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?" (Job 16:6)

"He is despised and rejected by men. A Man of sorrows and acquainted with **grief**. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our **griefs** and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken. Smitten by God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:3-4)

3. Jesus is our only hope when **death** appears to be the victor. (John 20:16-18)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... "(1 Peter 1:3)

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a **hope**. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Application: When all hope seems lost, we must remember Jesus Christ lives. This important truth assures us that our life is filled with hope.

Sermon Follow Up Guide – Dec 31

Memory Verse: *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" (John 20:17)*

Prayer: Our God and Father, thank You for the reality of the empty tomb that declares Jesus lives forevermore. Thank You for the eternal hope we have as a result of our Savior's victory over death. We pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Reading Plan:	Monday	Job 42	Friday	Colossians 1
	Tuesday	Psalms 39	Saturday	1 Timothy 1
	Wednesday	Isaiah 53	Sunday	1 Peter 1
	Thursday	Romans 8		

Song for the Week: *I've Just Seen Jesus* by Bill and Gloria Gaither and Danny Daniels

Consider:

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our basis for knowing that our hope is found in the Lord.
- The world seeks to pull Christians down, but as believers remain in prayer and in the Word of God we can be overcomers.
- Jesus' finished work on the cross makes it possible for us to be redeemed from all sorrow we encounter in this life.
- Real hope that Christ provides comes to us through faith. Reading God's Word, spending time in prayer, fellowshiping with believers, are just a few of the ways we can grow in our faith.

Application:

- When all hope seems lost, we must remember Jesus Christ lives. This important truth assures us that our life is filled with hope.

Next Week - New Sermon Series –
Caring for the Bride (Ephesians 5:22-33)
The Role of Christ