

ADVENT

2019



hope



joy



peace



love



WORLD
JOHN 3:16







past

present

future





Our present and our future
are primarily connected
through our hopes.



Our hopes for the future
make all the difference in
how we live in the present.



Tim Keller

You and I are unavoidably and irreducibly hope-based creatures ... what we believe about the future completely determines how we live now.

Richard Foster



Women endure childbirth because the joy of motherhood lies on the other side. Young married couples struggle through the first difficult years of adjustment because they value the insurance of a long life together. Parents hold steady through the teen years, knowing that their children will emerge at the other end human once again.



Without hope the
human heart cannot
survive.



What are the deepest
hopes that I hold in my
heart?

Philippians 2:19



I **hope** in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

2 John 12

I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink.

Instead, I **hope** to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:12-13



And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.” 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.

Matthew 2:1-6

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:1-6

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Matthew 2:1-6



“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Matthew 5:33-37



“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

Matthew 5:33-37

And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Dallas Willard

Jesus goes right to the heart of why people swear oaths. He knew that they do it to impress others with their sincerity and reliability and thus gain acceptance of what they are saying and what they want. It is a method for getting their way...

Dallas Willard



It is simply a device of manipulation, designed to override the judgment and will of the ones they are focusing upon, to push them aside, rather than respecting them and leaving their decision and action strictly up to them.



God's promises alone are
worthy of our total trust
and deepest hopes in life.

Louis Smedes

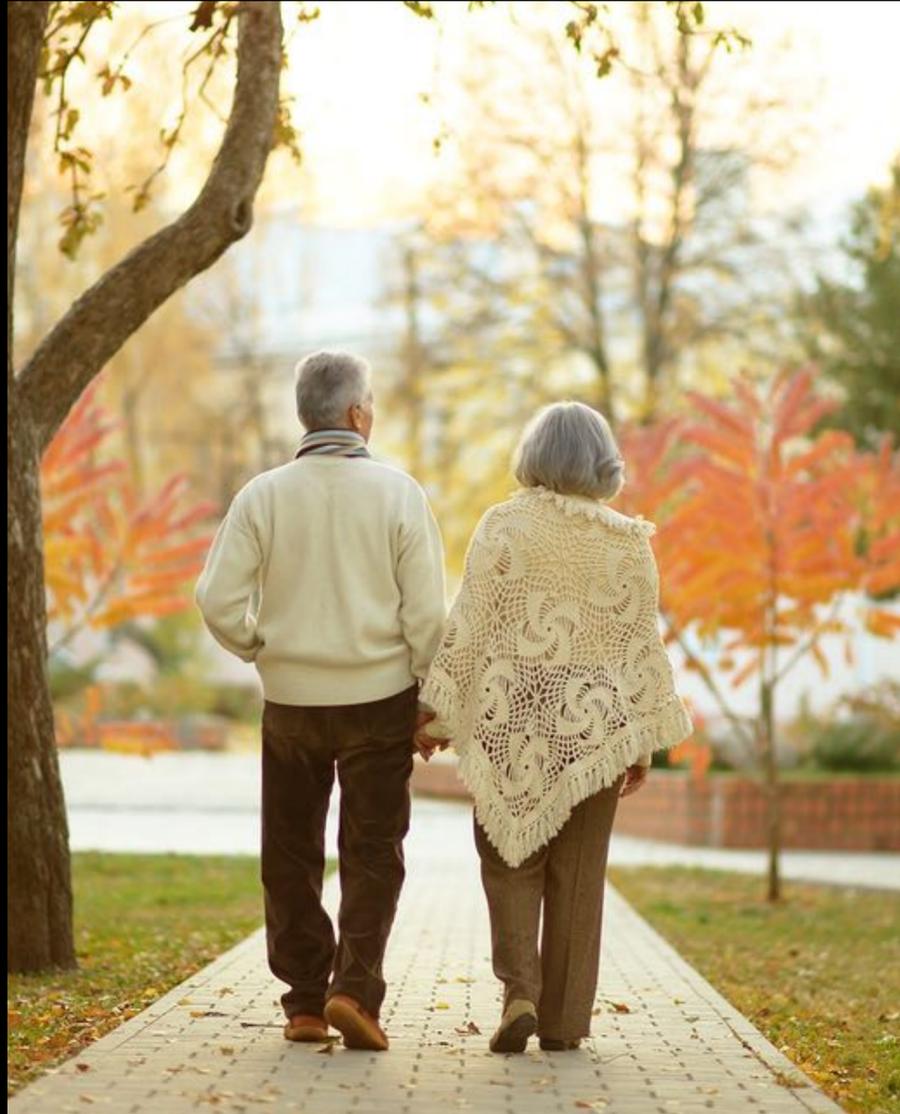


Human destiny is resting wholly on a promise ... One thing assures us that the cosmos will not climax its arduous odyssey turning itself into a stinking garbage heap. Only one thing affirms that the human romance will have a happy ending, and that the earth will be

Louis Smedes



populated one day by a redeemed family living in justice and *shalom*. The one thread by which everything hangs is a promise spoken and not forgotten. ... the only way to overcome the unpredictability of your future is the power of promising.



Louis
Smedes

When I married my wife, I had hardly a smidgen of sense for what I was getting into with her. How could I know how much she would change over 25 years? How could I know how much I would change? My wife has lived with at least five different men since we were wed—and each of the five has been me.



Louis
Smedes

Extend marriage to a family.
What makes a family? ... A family is a community created by the promise of two people who care for persons they bring into the world until those persons are able to care for themselves. Parents are people of promise. They remember their promise even when the



Louis
Smedes

family is a hotbed of anger, grief, and pain—as families tend sometimes to be. ... A family is created and kept together, not because parenting is so much fun, but because two people dared to make and dared to keep their promise.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.





Summary

Our hope is rooted in the promises of
God which never fail.

