

2015 “The Jesus Year”

“Hope Rules!” (Week #1)

Many Have Misplaced/False Hope:

*Progress

*Happily Ever After

*My Current Success

“But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,”—**Psalm 33:18**

Many Have A Bad Understanding of Hope:

*Optimism *Wishful Thinking

Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised. ¹⁶Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. ¹⁷God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹**This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.** It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. ²⁰Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest
—**Hebrews 6:15-20 (NLT)**

The Hope Of The New Testament Is The Bodily Resurrection Of Jesus Christ!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”—**1 Peter 1:3**

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”
—**1 Peter 3:15**

Hope Rule #1

*Sometimes Others Carry Your Hope!

“Roof Guys!”

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

*Who Is Carrying Your Hope?

*Whose Hope Are You Carrying?

This Week’s Verses To Learn & Live...

Mark 2:3-4

Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.