

Sunday, April 15

Title of the message: "Living the hope-filled life"

Scripture Text: I Peter 3:8-22

This Sunday we begin a new series of messages called "living the new life Jesus came to give us."

Certainly, one thing this new life means is that we are not people without hope. Living the new life Jesus came to give us means that you and I can have a life filled with hope every day.

The world gives loud and repeated messages that often falsely lead us to believe that we can put our hope in the things of this world. And then we are lost and devastated when heartache and tragedy comes and we are left disillusioned, afraid, and without hope. As we look at the Scriptures, from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from Job to the Psalmist, to the prophets, to the apostles, the resounding message is.... "put your hope in God.

What does it mean to put our hope in God?

- Only the Lord can promise you unfailing love and full redemption. The only one who will never is the Lord. (Psalm 130:7)

- Do not put your hope in people or wealth or material possessions. We put our hope in relationships, in the money we have, the possessions we accumulate--- and then a friend rejects us, you loose your job, or the stock market drops---and your hope is gone. The only certain hope is God.( Ezekiel 37:11, Ezekiel 36:27, 29, I Timothy 6:17-19)

- Hope in the Lord gives strength. (Isaiah 40:31)

- Hope in God will not disappoint us. (Romans 4:18, 5:2-5, Hebrews 6:10-11)

- Putting our hope in Jesus Christ gives us eternal life. (John 11:25-27)

What is hope? How would you describe it?

1. Hope is believing God. It is believing that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do. Hope is believing that Christ, the Son of

God, lived on this earth, died and rose again and reigns in heaven at the right-hand of God.

2. Hope is anchored in God. (Hebrews 6:19)

3. It is a living hope. (I Peter 1:3)

Because Christ lives, hope lives within us---always and forever.

So, "let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:23-24)