

# “Finding Hope for the Future”

Pastor Dave Vasquez, September 10-11, 2016

## INTRODUCTION

We all face challenges in our lives which may cast doubt on our future. Our church recently faced such a challenge when we lost our beloved Pastor Ron. At such times we can become anxious about what lies ahead. But God has given us many assurances that tell us He holds our future and His intentions for us are good. We may not know all the details of our future, but what we can be sure of, gives us a hope that can withstand the storms of life. In this study we find how to rest in, rejoice over and live in anticipation of our hope for the future.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Have you ever experienced a storm at sea? If so, what was it like?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Rest in your anchored hope.**

#### **Q1. Read Hebrews 6:17, 19-20; Matthew 8:23-26**

Biblical hope is defined as a “favorable and confident expectation”. How is this definition different from the way we commonly define hope? What is God concerned with in Hebrews 6:17 and why do you think it is so important to Him? Why do you think that Jesus was able to rest during the storm at sea while his disciples were terrified? In the “storms” of your life, do you recall a time when God enabled you to rest in your hope in the future, despite adverse circumstances?

### **Rejoice in your living hope.**

#### **Q2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5; Isaiah 61:1-4, 7**

The living hope we have is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus. How does Peter describe that hope in 1 Peter 1:4? This certainly is a hope to which we can anchor our faith! In this God, demonstrated His ability to bring life to the dead and beauty from destruction. Read the passage in Isaiah 61 above, noting the different ways that God’s Spirit revives and restores. Have you experienced God’s restoration in your life? What losses or hurts in your past would you like to see God restore? Have your group include this in their prayer requests.

### **Anticipate your blessed hope.**

#### **Q3. Read Titus 2:11-13; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; Ephesians 1:18-21**

In his letter to Titus, Paul referred to the glorious appearing of Jesus as “our blessed hope”. What is it about the glorious appearing that gives us cause to hope and to rejoice? (Philippians 3:20-21, Colossians 3:4) We also see in Ephesians 1:19-21 that the believer not only has a glorious inheritance, but also incomparable power available to us now. Even though we look forward to that day of Christ’s appearing, what does Paul encourage the believer to do while we wait (Titus 2:12)?

## Wrap-Up

God has provided us with a firm assurance of our future with Him. He wants to make that promise clear to us through His word, so that we have an anchor for our souls and a place of rest, free from anxiety over our future. Ours is a living hope based on the resurrection of Jesus. Not only do we have the hope of eternal life, we have a God who breathes life into the areas of our lives that need to be revived and restored. And we can rejoice in the anticipation of our blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord, because we will appear with Him, and be like Him. And even now, the power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in us while we wait for His appearing.

### **Memory Verse**

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

*Ephesians 1:18 NIV*

## Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

*Challenge: Share this anchored, living and blessed hope as an encouragement with one of your group members this week.*

