

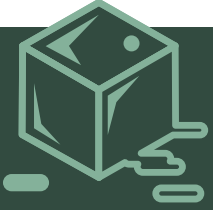


Christmas
at LifePoint

Week of December 3, 2023

Stay Awake with Hope

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette



ICEBREAKER

Apple or Android?

Introduction

- Pastor Mike shared that the ancient view of hope is better understood as “full dependence and assurance on something that is yet to happen.” What did hope mean to you before hearing today’s message?
- Read Titus 2:11-14. How does God’s grace train us? How has it trained you?

Our World Needs Hope

- What are some of the ways that you see hopelessness in our world?
- How does the hope of Christ followers differ from the hope of the world?
- Who do you take your honest questions to? Do they help point you back to God?
- Read James 1:2-4. What does joy mean to you? Share some practical ways that you use or have used in the past to find joy in a trial.
- What areas of your life have matured because of the difficulties you’ve walked through this year?

Jesus is the Hope of the World

- Matthew 1:23 calls Jesus “Emmanuel”, which means “God with us.” So where do you search for hope when things are hard? Does that align with “Emmanuel”?
- When you’re struggling, how do you remind yourself of the hope of Jesus?
- What do you tell your non-believing friends when they’re in pain?

Live Ready for Hope to Return

- What are some practical ways that you live ready for hope to return now?

How to Stay Awake:

1. Build a solid devotion life
2. Commit to the Lord’s Church
3. Repent from Dead Works and Sin
4. Live Out God’s Missions on Earth

- Share the effect that one of these four areas have impacted your life the most.
- Which area(s) do you need to work on in order to stay awake?
- Read Mark 13:32-36. We don’t know when Jesus will return, but we are called to hope for His return and live ready for his imminent return. Are you ready?

ACT ON IT



ENCOURAGE

We're so thankful that the first theme of Advent that we get to dive into is hope! Our world needs it! People spend so much time and energy putting their hope in all sorts of things because they are desperate for something to hold onto and believe in. Our world needs to know that there is only one true source of blessed hope: Jesus Christ. In a broken world, pain is a part of our reality. But we don't have to give in to that pain. We can have joy in chaos because our Lord walks with us through our pain. No matter how hard it gets, our hope is the person, work, ministry and life/death/resurrection of Jesus. And because of that, we know and trust that Jesus will be coming back for us again, even though we don't know when. Don't get caught sleeping at the return of Jesus. Stay awake!



ASK

What are you hoping for right now? What is holding your hope hostage? What honest questions are you struggling with? Have you asked them to God? What is God producing in you this year? Are you living ready for Jesus?



CHALLENGE

Start building a solid devotion life through prayer, reading your Bible, worship, fasting and living fully surrendered. Commit to the Lord's Church and take your next step in attending, serving, giving and leading. Live as the new creation in Christ and repent from dead works and sin. Start living out God's mission on earth by witnessing to others, inviting people to join you and sharing the Good News.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your Word. We thank You for the message of the Gospel. Thank You for Jesus Christ, our Blessed Hope, who makes it possible for us to live redeemed and transformed lives. Thank You Jesus for dying for us and raising from the dead so that we can have new lives, eternal lives and eternal living here on earth now. You are our Blessed Hope, nothing else compares. We repent of the temporary things in which we've been searching for hope because we now know they'll never last, but You will. While we wait on our Blessed Hope to return, help us be on fire for things of God. Make us zealous for good works. Make us passionate about the things of God. Empower us with Your Holy Spirit to live ready for You each and every day. We thank You and we praise You. Amen.