

Bridgeway Community Church  
Dr. David Anderson  
March 21, 2021

## iHope

### Feeling Like a Middle Child

“Today I want you to understand that there’s a great value that hope has in the family of Faith, Hope and Love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, **hope** and love. But the greatest of these is love.

“I want you to see the significant value of hope.”

Hebrews 11:6

And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

“Why is hope so significant?”

***Hope has significant value and without it  
there is no power to our faith or passion to our love!***

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things **HOPED FOR**, the evidence of things not seen.

“Hope gives faith its power, its substance, its surety. Faith has to have something to hope for, someone to hope in.”

What does hope stand for?

**H**.oly

**O**.ptimism (based on)

**P**.ositive

**E**.xpectations

Hebrews 11:1 NIV84

Faith is **being sure** of what is **HOPED FOR**, and **certain** of what I do not see.

“As believers, we hope for a Christ we’ve never seen yet.”

Colossians 1:27

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for **we shall see him as he is.**

Hebrews 13:14 NLT

**For this world is not our permanent home;** we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

Philippians 3:20

But **our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2:11 KJV

Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* **as strangers and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. **The great street of the city was of gold**, as pure as transparent glass.

Revelation 4:6

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like **a sea of glass, clear as crystal.**

Revelation 21:4

He [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death** or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelation 21:23

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

“If you don’t keep your eye on heaven, you can get stuck in thinking that this world is all there is.”

“There is a life to come that makes our hope passionate and powerful because we know this is not all there is.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

<sup>3</sup> We continually remember before our God and Father your work **produced by faith**, your labor **prompted by love**, and your endurance **inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Hope gives endurance.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your **faith** is growing more and more, and the **love** every one of you has for each other is increasing.

The Thessalonians thought they had missed the rapture and were going to have to endure the seven year tribulation.

Jeremiah 30:7

[the Lord speaking]. How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be **a time of trouble for Jacob**, but he will be saved out of it.

Matthew 24:21 KJV

[Jesus speaking] For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

## THE THESSALONIANS WERE EXHORTED TO TRUST THREE TRUTHS

1 Thessalonians 5:4

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

### 1. Trust that God will RETURN

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup>not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup>Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup>He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. <sup>5</sup>Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

“Man of lawlessness” = Anti-Christ

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage each other with these words

If you've trusted Christ as your Lord and Savior you can be sure Jesus will return for you.

#### 2. Trust that God will REPAY

##### 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. <sup>5</sup>All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. <sup>6</sup>**God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you** <sup>7</sup>and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. <sup>8</sup>He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power <sup>10</sup>on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

You mess with God's kids, you are messing with HIM!

### 3. Trust that God will REMOVE ME

2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup>and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup>For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup>and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

V. 6, him/he = Anti-Christ

V. 7, the one who now holds it back = the church & the Holy Spirit

The restrainer of evil is the church of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup>encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Sometimes it is in the middle where the most work is done. Jesus died in the middle of two criminals. But Jesus brought a message in the middle of that mess.

Luke 23:42-43

Then he [thief on the cross] said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus gave the thief HOPE.

1 Peter 3:15

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,

Practical Application: Prepare & Share the HOPE that you have