

Pt 3: **Hope**

One of the most difficult tensions we will experience in life is how to remain hopeful in a hopeless situation.

All of us at some stage will wrestle with this dilemma.

Have you ever thought “*Why even try? What’s the use? What’s the point?*”

If so, then you personally understand the tension of remaining hopeful in a hopeless situation.

Hope is placing our confidence in a person or thing to meet or to reach our expectations.

Hopelessness is the feeling that comes with knowing that the person or thing I placed my hope in, will not or cannot meet my expectations.

Psalm 33:22 May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in You.



OUR HOPE IS FOUND IN GOD’S LOVE FOR US.

God’s ‘Agape’ love is unconditional.

...love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8b

God's unconditional love towards us is a reflection of His character.

*John 13:34 (nlt) So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love **agape** each other. Just as I have loved **agaped** you, you should love **agape** each other.*

'Agape' love is an act of the will, more than a emotion.

- Our hope is found in God's choice to love us.
- Our hope is found in God's expression of His love toward us.

Jesus is God's choice of how to express His unconditional love toward us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (niv) But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

Romans 8:38-39 (nlt) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today anxiety nor our worries uncertainty about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 4:9-10 (nlt) *God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. ¹⁰ This is real love - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

Colossians 1:21-22 (nlt) *You who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.*

Romans 5:8 *God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

We have been invited to place our hope in God's unending love for us that is only found in a relationship with Jesus.

May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in You. Psalm 33:22

Do we put all our hopes in our plans, dreams, and ambitions? **NO!** We hold them all with an open hand and say, *"This is temporary, but **Your love is eternal God!**"*

Remember, when life is uncertain, God is not! God is always active, even in uncertain times.

When times are difficult, or uncertain, pray and keep praying until God's peace comes and floods our mind and our heart.

This prepares us to know with confidence that our hope is found in God's unending and unconditional love for us that is only found in a relationship with Jesus.

*Colossians 1:25-27 (erv) I became a servant of the church because God gave me a special work to do. This work helps you. My work is to tell the complete message of God.²⁶ This message is the secret truth that was hidden since the beginning of time. It was hidden from everyone for ages, but now it has been made known to God's holy people.²⁷ God decided to let His people know just how rich and glorious that truth is. **That secret truth, which is for all people, is that Christ lives in you, His people. He is our hope for glory.***

Summary

Our key points these past three weeks:

1. When times are uncertain – God is not!
2. Pray and stand until God's peace comes.
3. Our hope is found in God's love for us.

GOD STILL HAS THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS!