

Perspectives

Hope

In recent days I have been thinking about hope. People view, or approach, hope in different ways. When you are a kid, you may hope you get a new bike for Christmas. When you are a teenager, you may hope you get the car of your dreams. When you are a young adult you may hope to get a job after graduating from college. Throughout adulthood we hope for more money, better health, and so on. At certain times a person who really wants something to happen, may cross their fingers and think, "I hope (*insert situation here*) happens!"

Hope is defined in the dictionary *as to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true*.^{*} For us as believers our hope is more than mere wishful thinking. That is, our hope is based on the truth of God's Word. What God says He will do...He will do. Psalm 119:114 says, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word." As we open God's Word and read His promises, we can count on them as true and will happen. For example, there have been times in my life when I was going through a situation where I needed God's peace. It is at times like this when I can rest in the words of Jesus, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). I open myself up, through faith, to God's peace and allow His presence to infiltrate my heart and life. As I do, I experience His peace.

During this quarter we will look at the message of Paul to the church at Thessalonica and examine the timeless message of God from certain passages of Scripture. We will explore what God's Word says about sanctification, the second coming, God's strength, and more. As you read each passage and study each message, know that we can trust, place our hope, in Him.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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^{*}<<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hope>> Accessed March 23, 2020.