



Hope: Hope for the Past

December 4, 2011

Again Isaiah says, Then, the root of Jesse will emerge – He rises to rule all the peoples of the world who come to Him for guidance and direction. In Him they place their hope. Romans 15:12

And his name will be the hope of all the world.” Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

Hope

This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. Hebrews 6:19a (NLT)

We also learned that it was something more than what we do but it was also something that we do. But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. Psalm 71:14 (NIV)

I Remember

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Lamentations 3:19-20 (NIV)

• Past _____
But when I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came. Job 30:26 (ESV)

• Past _____
For what hope do the godless have when God cuts them off and takes away their life? Job 27:8 (NLT)

• Past _____
All my dearest friends recoil from me in horror: those I loved best have turned against me. Job 19:19 (NJB)

Hope for the Past

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23 (NRSV)

1. _____ Your Mind

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Their closed hearts are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds against him, and they cannot understand his ways.

Ephesians 4:18 (TLB)

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)

2. _____ Your Past

Stop dwelling on past events and brooding over times gone by. Isaiah 43:18 (CJB)

He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our offenses. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His faithful love toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:10-12 (HCSB)

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. Micah 7:18 (NIV)

Now God says he will accept and acquit us—declare us "not guilty"—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like. Romans 3:22 (TLB)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1 (NIV)

3. _____ Your Heart

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Choose to trust God, putting my hope in Him, by asking Him to forgive my past.
- Give an area of my past, that I've been holding on to, to God. Trusting in Him to renew my heart.
- Commit to spread hope this week by using one of the "a little something extra" cards.
- Meditate and/or memorize Lamentations 3:21-23