

Taking a Fresh Look @ Christmas

WEEK TWO: HOPE

LUKE 1:5:20

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

Hope and Readiness

- vs.5-8
- No “*quid pro quo*”
- When everything is transactional with God, it is hard to have hope
- Godly duty
- vs.8-9
- Hebrews 10:25
- vs.13
- God hears your prayers
- The widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8)

Hope and Promise

- vs.11-16
- When God gives hope to one someone, it is never just for them
- Hope is a passable blessing
- vs.17

Hope and Failure

- vs.18-20
- The person of faith enjoys the promises of God
- Hope is a powerful medicine that comes to those who are ready

Christmas Hope

For some people Christmas is only about Santa Claus and getting gifts.

The heart of Christmas is captured with one line in the famous carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. That line summarizes what Christmas means to us: “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” In the little town of Bethlehem, God met the hopes of all humanity by birth of His Son, Jesus.

The good news of Christmas is that God brought hope to all people, regardless of their background. That included Jews and Gentiles both. The angel’s announcement to the shepherds made that clear.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10-11).

Hope is a powerful force in our lives and Christmas brings hope. Christmas is also for those who have been longing for a Saviour. They may have been devout in their religious observance, but still understand that their only hope is for God to come to them. They have been waiting for God to show up. He has!

This Christmas may God fill each of our hearts with hope. The angels expressed what that hope means: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests”* (Luke 2:14).

