

A HOPEFUL NEW YEAR 2022

Text: **1 Peter 1:3**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

II. Summary Sentence of Scripture

This passage says there is hope in Jesus.

III. Summary Sentence of the Sermon

My sermon says that Christians deepen their hopes in their lives.

IV. Specific Objective

I will ask my hearers to hold on to their Christian hope through Christ.

V. Introduction

Many times, in our lives, we experience disruption. This disturbance of our peaceful living, in the middle of our comfort, and routinary life can be turned upside down with one call. Former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said, “I went to see a pulmonologist, and then she said, “I’m sorry you have cancer.” And I said, “Yes!” because I wanted a challenge in my life.

It was quite a total silence when the Philippines heard about the news of Miriam Defensor-Santiago’s death. Everyone paused and remembered her contributions, humor, speeches, attainments, and her life. Even all the media stopped releasing news about De Lima, Extra-Judicial Killings, Duterte, Gen. Bato, Matobato, Bilibid, and a lot more just to release a lot of facts about Sen. Miriam.

This scenario was the same but in a smaller context for Kate Bowler, the author of No Cure for Being Human and professor at Duke University. Her world stopped for a moment when she was diagnosed with Cancer, she was young, in her mid-30s. She almost gave up and saw no hope at all.

Today is another year. New Year 2022. 2021 is done, and we are now venturing through this year. But New Years are not something mystical nor magical. We sometimes think that when 12AM arrives, all the challenges, trials, and sufferings last year will vanish or at least reduce. However, it does not work that way. It ain’t like a firework that once it blasted up in the sky after a second it will be gone. No. It is not.

New Years are not even ought to be always happy. So, I appreciate those who called me last New Year and said that they were sad, disappointed, and enduring. Yes, many celebrated New Years alone, some just stayed at home with the family. Do not be pressured and feel guilty that you have not celebrated New Year like how you did it before or how others did it. It is okay not to be okay during New Year.

But, take note of this, if given all the opportunity and chance from God, staying “not okay” is not okay. Yes, we feel sad and disappointed, but we are not called to stay there. That is why New Years are there to remind us about a HOPEFUL NEW YEAR. And in our passage today, it points us that the ultimate foundation of this Hope is no other than the Person of Jesus Christ.

VI. Main Sermon Idea

Our meaning of hope today is different from the New Testament writers. Sino kayang mananalo sa PBA? San Miguel ba o Ginebra? I hope San Miguel pero nag buzzer beater si Japeth Aguilar. Papasa kaya ako sa Finals namin sa school, I hope so. Sana onte lang complaints sa Barangay. I hope there will be a lot of clients this week.

Our hope is dependent on the things that are yet to come but Jurgen Moltmann's Theology of hope states that the Christian is to be seen as a "hoper," someone who is impatient and terribly dissatisfied with the current status of the world.

1 Peter 1:3 states there that salvation is due to God's mercy, grace, and sovereignty, for he miraculously gave sinners new life. Wherein we already have it, the hope of Christians is their future resurrection. Believers have an unshakable hope for the future, for Christ's resurrection is a pledge of their own future resurrection.

And now why is the begetting of this hope calling a new birth? "By his great mercy, we have been born anew unto a living hope."

Have you ever asked the question: What makes you, you? What is the essence of your unique personhood? What does that taproot from which the flower of your individuality grows?

I think if you probe deeply, you will find that it is not your actions or thoughts, or ideas. It is your desire. We are most basically what we crave. Ideas and principles will be brought in afterward to justify our appetites and passions. The primal thing is you're yearning and longing. Your individuality is determined by what you hanker for.

If that is true, then a radical change in our desires and longings will mean a radical change in our personhood. Something new comes into being, and that is what Jesus and John and Paul and Peter call the new birth or regeneration. The reason Peter says we are "born anew to a living hope" is that when we cease to pin our hopes (our desires and longings) on things that are in the world and instead pin our hopes and desires on God, then a new person has been born. (James K. A. Smith)

I. The Christian Hope

Futurist Thomas Frey put it in this manner that we are to live a present life determined by our future not our pasts. We tend to see our lives based on what happened to our past. Many times, we blame our past experiences or point at them whenever we are asked why we are like this. (The man who said that by 2030, 3 billion jobs will vanish).

Theology of hope makes eschatology its central governing concept; all other teachings revolve around eschatology and are only properly understood in that view. It begins not with creation, but with the resurrection of Christ (1 Peter 1:3). Eschatology means the doctrine of the Christian hope

Christian eschatology speaks of Jesus Christ and his future. It recognizes the reality of the raising of Jesus and proclaims the future of the risen Lord. The future events as promised in the Bible become current events, not coming events. This does not mean that the events have already taken place, but that these events are in the process right now.

The whole idea behind the "theology of hope" is the hope of the believer. It is hope which sustains and carries each believer through life. It is "hope" that changes us, hope that changes the world. It is an expectation that the promises of God are already in the process of fulfillment.

II. Hope Fully

And as you all know, the Bible—especially Peter's first letter—does not ease our burden by saying: "When things are tough, don't fret about others; take care of yourself." In fact, Peter seems to suggest that the tougher the times, the greater the need to live a life of love for others.

When Peter says in 1:13, "Hope fully in the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ," he does not mean we should desire it and be uncertain of it. The coming of Christ is a matter of complete confidence for all the writers in the New Testament. So, the command, "Hope fully," means be intensely desirous and fully confident that Jesus Christ is coming again with grace for his people.

Hebrews 6:11 where it says, "We desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the *full assurance of hope* to the end. Christian hope is *the strong confidence in God that has the power to produce changes in how we live*."

VIII. Conclusion

One of the comments in Katie Ganshert's book entitled *The Art of Losing Yourself*, was a beautiful story of endurance and hope—offering no easy answers but the irresistible light of Christ to guide us.

Both in our personal lives and in our community that the only hope is Christ, in which it is the gospel to be preached, shared, and proclaimed. Let's not keep this hope and let others lose again the hope they are longing for.

Challenge: Christian hope arises in the heart through hearing a credible testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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