

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SERMON NOTES
DECEMBER 01, 2019**

**"GOD'S CHRISTMAS LIST: Hope"
Isaiah 53:1-9**

"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."

What do you get for the person who has everything? Well, our focus this Advent Season will be on the things we think might possibly appear upon the Christmas list of God and since He already "owns it all" what could He possibly want that we could give to Him? Over the course of the next four weeks we hope to provide us with great list of gifts that we think would "put a smile on His face."

Hope's definition is as follows: "To trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone; or to expect something beneficial in Hope is always the proper response to the promises of God because His promises are "rock-solid".

Just a handful of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled: He was born in Bethlehem, preceded by a messenger (John the Baptist), entered Jerusalem on a donkey, was betrayed by a friend who received thirty pieces of silver, was silent before His accusers, and died in the manner Romans used for criminals (crucifixion), during which they pierced His hands and feet.

What God wants is most beneficial for us! Let's look briefly at just three truths...

A. _____.

Over the years I have known many people who have nothing but hope to live for – because they have lost most everything else. The only thing that carries them is hope, because hope never disappears.

B. _____.

There are A LOT of disappointments in life. People let us down, situations go south, life – itself – sometimes seems to conspire against us. But hope, real hope, GOD'S HOPE never disappoints! Paul writes, in Romans 5:5, an encouraging proclamation of this truth: "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

C. _____.

Hope motivates us to keep going when the going gets tough. Without hope... well, we would all give up.

All this, then, is what hope does. Do you have hope? What is your hope in? Is it solely in what you want, or do you have the hope that comes from knowing that God is good and that He is your God? Anything less is not really hope!

"God's desire is that we would hope in Him. This season let's commit ourselves to place our hope in nothing but Him and to rest in the reliability of our God! I really believe that He would like that!"