

NEW TESTAMENT HOPE

Often our expressions of hope, for example, “I hope it does not rain tomorrow” has within it an element of uncertainty. That is not New Testament hope.

The New Testament word for hope always looks towards the future with a confident expectation of a positive outcome. Never negative. Never doubting.

HOPE does not ask why.

When the disciple saw a man, who was born blind they asked “Who sinned this man or his parents. (John 9:2) Jesus replied and in effect said, “Don’t ask why about difficult situation, but instead get on with that which will bring new light.”

HOPE does not become anxious.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

HOPE does not look at the present circumstances

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. (Philippians 4:11)

HOPE focuses on Jesus

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)

HOPE is grounded in our belief that Jesus is alive.

Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! (Mark 16:6)

LET US, during these difficult days (months), focus our minds on Jesus and ponder again those times when he has led us through difficult experiences to a place of security and blessings.