

How is your Hope today?

- ▶ Life is:
- ▶ Challenging
- ▶ Difficult
- ▶ Rarely answers the '*why*' questions

The Bible:

1. *Reveals Who God is*
2. *Defines who we are*
3. *Explains the meaning and purpose of life*
4. *Unfolds our problem: sin*
5. *Points us to our only Hope: Jesus*

► Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*, Oct 6, modified by RHP

1. The Bible *reveals* Who God is

- ▶ In the beginning, God . . .

 - ▶ *Genesis 1.1*

- ▶ I am the LORD, and there is no other;

 - Isaiah 45.5, NIV*

2. The Bible *defines* who we are

- ▶ Simply put, sinners, i.e., separated from God:
- ▶ **All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;** *Isaiah 53.6, NKJV*

The Bible declares our problem:

sin

- ▶ Universal
- ▶ no exceptions
- ▶ all humanity
- ▶ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – *Romans 3.23, NIV***

3. *Explains* the meaning and purpose of life:

- ▶¹³ That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion:
- ▶ Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.
 - ▶ *Ecclesiastes 12:13, New Living Translation*

5. Points us to our only Hope:

Jesus

- ▶ **Jesus is still rescuing people!**
- ▶ ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- ▶ ²⁴ **and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

Romans 3.23-24, NIV

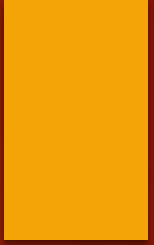
But discouragement is still around :

- ▶ The prophet Jeremiah could have been discouraged:
- ▶ **He obeyed God to prophesy, but no one listened**
- ▶ **He saw war, captivity, the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem**

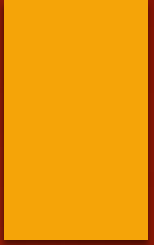


But even Jeremiah found HOPE!

- ▶ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
- ▶ ²² Because of the LORD's great love we
are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.



► They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my
portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”



► The LORD is good to those whose hope
is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

► *Lamentations 3.21-26, NIV*

The world is still under
God's control:

- ▶ All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

▶ *Daniel 4.35, NIV*

Don't worry, be happy!

▶ ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

▶ *Philippians 4.6-7, NIV*

Need hope? (who doesn't!)

We need Jesus!

► ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3.20-21, NIV*