



Rejoicing in Hope

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and
undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”*

(1 Peter 1:3-4, NASB)

Nashua church of Christ

Fall 2020

Rejoicing in Hope!

We live in a world so desperate for hope! Everywhere, there is disappointment, division, and destruction. But, there is hope! The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Colosse about a great mystery that God had revealed, “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Colossians 1:27). Through and in Jesus Christ, God offers a hope that is beyond compare. It is a sure hope, one surpassing anything else we can imagine or desire in this life. It will never fade or fail. It can be fully trusted upon, believed in, and waited for. And, it will change our lives if and when we diligently pursue and rejoice in it.

Are you feeling hopeless? Are you hungry for a real, lasting hope? Join us in this study!

The goals of this study on Hope are to:

- Understand this heavenly hope and how we access it;
- Abound in the joy, faith and love that this hope provokes; and
- Live a more hope-filled, Spirit-led life that brings glory to God.

Our formal class times are Sunday mornings 9:30 am to 10:10 am, and there will be follow up informal study opportunities during the week. All but Lesson 2 will cover two weeks as shown below. On Wednesday nights, we will be watching the video series “Following the Messiah” by Appian Media that covers the life of Jesus Christ, the One who paid the price for this incredible hope we can have.

WEEKS OF	LESSONS
Oct 4th and 11th	Lesson 1 – One Hope (Describing the wonderful hope found in Jesus Christ)
Oct 18th	Lesson 2 – Saving Hope (We hear the gospel of hope, believe and are baptized into Christ)
Oct 25th and Nov 1st	Lesson 3 – Living Hope (We are part of one body with Christ as head)
Nov 8th and 15th	Lesson 4 – Victorious Hope (In Christ, we are victorious and complete to gain this hope)
Nov 22nd and 29th	Lesson 5 – Motivating Hope (My focus is now upward and my desire is to walk worthy of Him)
Dec 6th and 13th	Lesson 6 – Healing Hope (I appear and think differently and seek healing in relationships)
Dec 20th and 27th	Lesson 7 – Bonding Hope (Prayer and brethren help us sustain and share hope)

Ways to Engage in this Study

1. Attend our live classes that occur on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:10 am. You can attend in person, watch live or recorded sessions from our website:

Website: www.nashuacoc.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nashuacoc>

2. Complete the lessons each week. Lesson handouts are available at the www.nashuacoc.com website under “Resources”, and physical copies are available at our building or by mail. For the latter, contact John or Wendell below to have a copy mailed to you free of charge. The lessons primarily rely upon the New American Standard Version of the Bible to fill in blanks, and you are welcome to read in the version you have.

- John Powell: (205) 641-5181 and jfpowell1967@gmail.com
- Wendell Stevens: (913) 240-7878 and Wendell.stevens89@gmail.com

3. Actively think, feel, and the do something as a result of each lesson. The hope God planned and paid for through Jesus Christ can and should change our lives. Let it move you to positive, godly action in a revived hope-driven, Spirit-led life.

4. Join the Nashua Facebook Group. Our online, 40-minute classes do not provide enough time for everyone online to contribute in a timely way due to the 20 second time delay in our live stream. To overcome this delay, you can answer questions in advance at our Facebook Group entitled “**Nashua church of Christ**” at www.facebook.com/groups/nashuacoc/. This is a private group and you’ll need a Facebook account to join. We will do our best to integrate your answers into upcoming class sessions. After class, we encourage you to share how hope is changing your life with other members.

If you do not have a Facebook account or feel uncomfortable submitting your answers or questions to the Facebook Group, you can text, call or email answers John or Wendell using the information in #2.

5. Download the “Poll Anywhere” app. It is a free app for mobile devices that allows for live, on-the-spot questions and surveys to increase live class participation.

Lesson 1



This world is desperate for hope! Too often, hopes are dashed, and we repeatedly drift towards hopelessness. Why is that? Perhaps, we have not yet learned of the great and secure hope of God. If we have found it, perhaps we've become distracted or forgotten just how sweet, powerful, and important this hope truly is.

Are you desperate or eager for hope? Come, let us find it together in God's word!

WEEK 1: October 4, 2020

PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK QUESTIONS: (See page ii on how to submit answers in advance)

- A. **Scavenger Hunt:** What words, feelings or actions are often associated with hope and hopelessness?
- B. Define **Hope** in your own words?

I. KNOW.

A. Stage setter: In Hebrews 11:1, we learn "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." In Hebrews 11:8-16, what things did Abraham and Sarah hope for that was tied to their faith?

B. Defining Hope.

How is hope defined in Romans 8:23-25?

C. WHAT is the Hope God offers?

1. There is _____ hope ([Ephesians 4:4](#)), which is a _____ hope ([Titus 2:13](#)) that serves as an _____ of the soul ([Hebrews 6:18-20](#)). It is the hope of _____ ([Titus 1:2, 3:7](#)). Thus, it is a _____ hope that comes with an eternal _____ that is _____ ([1 Peter 1:3-5](#)). Such a hope necessitates a _____ of the righteous and wicked ([Acts 24:14-15](#)).

Simply put, H O P E is an everlasting H O ___ E.

2. How does *this* hope compare to other hopes you have in this mortal life?

D. WHERE is this Hope?

1. [Colossians 1:3-5](#) and [1 Peter 1:3-5](#) state is laid up and reserved in _____.
2. Based on other scriptures, describe this location. What excites you most about it?

E. WHY is this Hope available?

1. God is the “_____ of Hope” ([Romans 15:12-13](#)) and “Hope of _____” ([Jeremiah 17:13](#)). God promised hope _____ ([Titus 1:2](#)); and is _____ in what He promised ([Hebrews 10:23](#)). God _____ it to us ([Hebrews 6:18-20](#)) because of His great _____ (1 Peter 1:3) and His _____ ([Psalms 33:18](#)). This hope will not _____ because the _____ of God has been _____ within our hearts through the Holy Spirit...” ([Romans 5:4-5](#)).

2. Why does God offers this incredible hope to you? Do you believe that?

II. FEEL. What is my response?

- A. What is my reaction to this hope? (excitement, thankfulness, apathy, bothered, etc)
- B. What interferes with me appreciating this great hope in my own life?

III. DO Something!

- A. This week, I will remind myself of this great hope by...
- B. Complete the pre-class homework questions and part two of lesson 1 to complete our description of hope.

LESSON 1, WEEK 2: October 11, 2020

This week, we continue our investigation into the marvelous hope God offers to all.

PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK QUESTIONS: (See page ii on how to submit answers in advance)

- A. What Bible verses or stories help stir up hope in you?

- B. Which person or people inspire you to hold fast to hope of eternal life? Why?

I. KNOW.

A. HOW did God make hope possible?

1. **Through a SAVIOR.** We Gentiles were without Christ and had no _____, being without _____. But in Christ Jesus, we were brought near by His _____, being reconciled by His one _____ through the _____ ([Ephesians 2:11-16](#)). Not only did Jesus have to die, but also _____, else we could have no _____ ([1 Corinthians 15:16-20](#)). We must believe that He _____ and _____ ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-14](#)). As God is hope, since He is the source of it, Christ Jesus is our _____, being the Savior for it ([1 Timothy 1:1](#)). He is the _____ of _____ ([Colossians 1:27](#)). According to John 3:16, why did God send His one and only Son? _____.

2. **Through His HOLY SPIRIT.** Through the Spirit, we are _____ for the hope of _____ ([Galatians 5:5](#)). As we groan in longing for our eternal home, God gave us the Spirit as a _____ ([2 Corinthians 5:1-5](#)). He helps us _____ in hope by His _____ ([Romans 15:13](#)).

3. **Through the WORD.** We have hope through _____ and _____ of the Scriptures, which were written for our _____ ([Romans 15:4](#)).

B. **WHEN will this hope be revealed?** Our hope of eternal salvation will be revealed in _____ ([1 Peter 1:5](#)) at the appearing of _____ ([Titus 2:11-13](#)). No one, not even the _____ or _____ know when; only the Father knows when this day comes ([Matthew 24:35-37](#)). When Jesus Christ appears, we will be _____ because we will _____ Him as He is ([1 John 3:2-3](#)).

C. WHO is this hope offered to?

1. According to [Acts 17:26-28](#) (NKJV), what does God hope for?
2. According to [2 Peter 3:8-9](#), and [1 Timothy 2:3-4](#), what does God desire?

In Lesson 2, we'll explore how one accepts God's offer of this hope of eternal life.

II. FEEL. What is my response?

A. God is "all in" when it comes to hope: He is the *provider*, Jesus is the *payment*, the Holy Spirit is the *pledge*, and the Scriptures are the *encouragement*. How committed am I towards this great eternal hope?

B. Hope is contagious! What people in my life or in the Bible are great at spreading hope? How does it feel to be around such people?

III. DO Something!

A prayer: "Lord, thank you for this great hope you offer to all people. Give me the courage to share this hope and Your love with them this week."

A. Identify two people in your life that you want to share hope with: _____
and _____.

B. According to [1 Peter 3:15](#), we are to always be ready to make a defense to anyone to give an account for the hope in us. To prepare, write a paragraph below to summarize all that you have learned and believe about the hope God provides. Practice saying this out loud two or three times.

Lesson 2



PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK QUESTIONS: (See page ii on how to submit answers in advance)

If you are a Christian, what is the story of your conversion to Jesus Christ?

I. KNOW. What do the scriptures say?

A. Stage Setter: Read [Acts 2](#) and answer the following questions:

1. What message did the crowd hear? (2:14-36) Was the sermon full of hope, hopelessness, both, or neither? Explain.
2. What was the crowd's response to what they heard? (2:37)
3. What was Peter's answer and how did they respond to it? (2:38-42)
4. What was the end result of this preaching? (2:43-47)

B. LEARNING of Hope.

1. According to [Colossians 1:3-8](#) and [1:25-28](#), how did they learn about this great hope?
2. According to [Romans 10:8-15](#), how do we learn about this great hope and salvation?
3. According to Jesus in [John 3:16](#), what is the hope for those who believe in Him?

We, like those in Jerusalem, Rome, and Colosse, can hear, believe (have faith) and respond to this hope of which we had no right or access to other than in Jesus Christ. Or, we can reject Christ and remain without hope (Ephesians 2:11-12).

C. BORN AGAIN into Hope

Key verses on Born Again: [Colossians 1:13-14, 19-20](#); [Colossians 2:11-15, 20](#); John 3:3-5; Romans 6:1-6. Galatians 3:26-29

1. According to [Colossians 1:13-14, 19-20](#), what did God do to give us the hope of salvation?
2. According to [Colossians 2:11-14, 20](#), what happens when we are baptized?
3. According to [Romans 6:1-6](#), what happens when we are baptized?
4. According to Jesus in [John 3:3-5](#), what is necessary to enter into this eternal kingdom of hope?
5. What was the further reaction of those who heard, believed and were baptized in [Acts 8:5-13](#) and [8:35-39](#)?

We, like those in Jerusalem, Rome, and Colosse, must hear, believe, and die to the sinful man through baptism. In this spiritual death and burial, God raises us to a new life in Christ where there is forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, and the hope of glory.

Simply put, in Him, God makes us __ H O __ E for H O P E.

We, like those in Samaria and Ethiopia, can rejoice in hope now and for eternity!

II. FEEL. What is my response?

- A. What's your reaction to God's calling (through the gospel of hope) to be saved?
- B. What is it like when I am truly praising and rejoicing in good things, like this hope?

III. DO. What action(s) will I take?

- A. Find 10 minutes each day to simply rejoice in the Lord for what He offers you. Conduct a word search about rejoicing in your Bible to inspire you further.
- B. Continue to pray for the two people you identified in Lesson 1 that you will share this good news of the hope that you have within you. Do they see you as a rejoicing person?

Lesson 3



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3

In Colossians 1:18, Paul refers to the church as a body with Christ as its head. He also asserts the same truth again in Colossians 1:24, “His body, which is the church”. The idea of a body carries the understanding of something alive and not an inanimate object. Each Christian has been “born again” into a “living hope” (1 Peter 1:3) and collectively we make up the church, Christ’s body. The scriptures are also clear that God appointed Christ as the Head of this body, the church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and put all in subjection under Him. According to Colossians 1:21-22, in the body of Christ we are holy, blameless, above reproach. As a body we are nourished, knit together, and growing. The full Godhead dwells in Jesus with us as members. We are not our own! We are part of this most powerful, wonderful, healthy, important and pre-eminent body in all of creation! What a great, secure hope we have as part of the body of Christ!

PRE-CLASS HOMEWORK QUESTIONS: (See page ii on how to submit answers in advance)

What are some of the benefits you have personally received from being part of a local church?

I. KNOW. What do the scriptures say?

A. MANY MEMBERS, BUT ONE BODY – HOPE FROM BEING UNITED

Read [Colossians 1:13, 18, 21-22, 2:19](#); [1 Corinthians 12:12-20](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#)

1. Who has placed us in the Body?
2. What are some truths about the Body found in these verses?
3. What is the meaning of the phrase, “the fullness of Him who fills all in all”? (Eph. 1:23)

B. CHRIST IS OUR HEAD – HOPE FROM OUR LEADER

Read [Colossians 1:15-17](#), [2:9-12](#); [Hebrews 6:19-20](#)

1. What are some truths about our Head found in these verses?
2. What attributes does the imagery of an anchor present? How do these apply to the hope we have in Christ?

C. GROWING AND FUNCTIONING – SECURING OUR HOPE

Read [Colossians 2:6-7](#), [Ephesians 4:15-16](#), [1 Corinthians 15:58](#), [1 Peter 5:6-7](#)

1. What words in Colossians 2:7 convey security?
2. What are some of the actions or responsibilities listed in these verses for the members of the Lord's body?

II. FEEL. What is my response?

- A. Do I find living in the body, or church of Christ a burden or blessing, a shame or salvation, an embarrassment or excitement?
- B. Is there any greater head than our HEAD, Christ? How does that make you feel?
- C. Hope (or lack of) is contagious! Am I feeling hopeful, sharing hope, or killing hope? What indicates this rise or fall of hope?

III. DO. What action(s) will I take?