



## CHRISTMAS PLAYLIST

### FINDING SECURITY (Week 2)

**WELCOME:** What do you hope to do or start doing in the new year?

**WORSHIP:** Sing, *JOY TO THE WORLD*

**WORD:** Did you ever notice that we use the word *hope* almost always to convey a sense of uncertainty? “I hope you took great pictures.” “I hope there’s food at home.” “I hope she makes it.” We use it as if we are expecting something that would not be there or won’t happen, but on a positive light.

Hope is the opposite of despair. Despair is the sense that things won’t change for the better and nothing that I do will make any difference. Despair is real to anyone living in a fallen world. Certainly there are varying degrees of despair. Biblical hope is more than a desire for something better; it is a certain expectation. Having *biblical hope* is not ‘positive thinking.’ To convince yourself mentally that things will be better tomorrow may make you feel better today but *Biblical hope* goes beyond positive thinking because as will see, *biblical hope* accepts the reality of God’s providence and goodness in human suffering (Read Job 11:18-19).

Read Jeremiah 29:11. When the prophet Jeremiah wrote that, he was writing to a group of people in despair. They were refugees. But the prophet encourages them to not despair and instead believe in the future God has for them. He told them to make the most out of what they have, and leverage their position to build into the future God is preparing for them.

In this study, we will look at several verses and contexts from which we can learn how to leverage our position and possessions to build into the future that God is preparing for us.

#### 1. GET YOUR ALL IN ON JESUS.

In a gambling scenario, a person goes “all in” on their bet without certainty. When we put our “all” on Jesus, He will not disappoint for He is our hope (Romans 5:5). If you have Christ, then you have hope in the glory of God, you have a hope that is nurtured in suffering, and have a hope that never disappoints.

God sent Jesus to restore the hope of humanity so we can share in His future glory.

Read Colossians 1:27. We have a hope that is centered in the glory of God. We do not hope in the glory of human life on planet earth; we hope in the glory of God. The glory of God is the perfections of his being, including the perfections of his plan for creation and the perfections of his redemption. The glory of God is something that is superior to all of us for we ‘*all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*’ (Romans 3:23).

- A. When you hear the word “glory,” what do you think of?
- B. What is the “mystery” the Apostle Paul writes about in Colossians 1:27? How does it bring both hope and glory into our lives?
- C. What does your future look like? Read 2 Corinthians 2:16-18

#### 2. ENDURE HARD TIMES.

Read Romans 5:3-4. If we analyze the pattern, we will realize that a faith that is tested and proven is one that is strong in hope. It is difficult to know the reality and genuineness of your faith and commitment to Christ unless it is tested. Hard times are the crucible of testing. As you continue to look to Christ in suffering – honoring him and not denying him, you persevere. As you persevere, your character – i.e. your true nature – is proven. Out of this experience of God’s grace that sustains you in suffering and causes you to persevere, your hope is made alive.

- A. What do we receive if we learn to endure in our faith (Hebrews 10:35-36)?
- B. How should we approach every hard time or hard task ahead of us (James 1:2-4)?
- C. In what area of life are you currently facing hard times (Romans 12:12)?

The prophet Jeremiah (29:12-14) continued by saying that they will be restored as a people, but they do need to endure.

### 3. KEEP BUILDING, KEEP EXPANDING.

The Prophet Jeremiah encourages the people in exile start building and keep building; to use their present to prepare for their future restoration (Read Jeremiah 29:4-7).

- A. *Be a blessing to where you're at.* God didn't want them to hate them; He wanted them to love them. He didn't want them to escape the culture or the city. He wanted them to stay there and seek the welfare of the city, the people, which had just beaten them down.
  - Build homes. Stay rooted where God has placed you and stop pulling yourself out otherwise you'll never flourish.
  - Give your children to marriage. Build more families that will honor God.
  - Plant gardens (start businesses). Venture out and begin to flourish, and let God bless your endeavours.
  - Multiply, don't dwindle. Enlarge your territory.
  - Become a mighty influence. God has placed you here because He wants to redeem people through you.
- B. *Seek Shalom for the place where God has put you.* The word welfare is the key word to this whole series. It's the Hebrew word Shalom which is translated into English as peace. But in Hebrew that word means Shalom means universal flourishing. Peace comes from the certainty that God is building a great future for us, as He promised in Jeremiah 29:11.
  - As God's people, we must be at the forefront of seeking the welfare of this city and be a blessing to it!
  - Let us do our best to bring the Hope of Jesus to everyone we know and meet.
  - Let us build the kingdom of God (His church), we are the champions of hope in Jesus!

### WORKS:

- Pray for the city and how we as God's people at Mosaic become a greater blessing to this community.
- Envision for yourselves a better future here in this city (Sow in Faith, See in Faith, Speak in Faith, Step in Faith for whatever God places in your heart. It may be a business, an organization or a cause.).
- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17. Pray for God's hope to rule in your hearts.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

12/11 (1-3PM) - Christmas Party

12/24 (7PM) – Christmas Eve Worship

Remember Your Part in our Vision

