

Getting Started

1. Have you ever turned on a friend or denied knowing them? Why?
2. What is something you hope to do or see?
3. Is it acceptable to have hope in other things beyond God?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. **Belgic Confession Article 22: The Righteousness of Faith**

And therefore we justly say with Paul that we are justified "by faith alone" or "by faith apart from works." However, we do not mean, properly speaking, that it is faith itself that justifies us—for faith is only the instrument by which we embrace Christ, our righteousness. But Jesus Christ is our righteousness in making available to us all his merits and all the holy works he has done for us and in our place. And faith is the instrument that keeps us in communion with him and with all his benefits. When those benefits are made ours they are more than enough to absolve us of our sins.

How might these words help you increase your hope and trust in God?

6. Paul describes pagan religion and philosophy in Ephesians 2:12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13 as without hope. This differs from what Peter speaks of in 1 Peter 1:3. What's different?
7. When Peter was writing this section of the letter do you think he was thinking about Matthew 6:19-21?
8. Read Matthew 26:30-35; 69-75. What led to Peter's denial? Have you ever denied Christ publically?

Application

9. We experience different trials and challenges in our lives. As those who trust in Jesus Christ, we have a living hope that helps see us through those challenges. The next time you find yourself in the midst of trial or are feeling defeated remember where your living hope lies.

Bible Reading Questions

September 12 – Joel – What is Joel’s prophecy about?

September 13 – Daniel 1-3 – Does the prophecy of the statue have a meaning for us today or is it a prophecy for the people of Israel in the time of Daniel?

September 14 – Daniel 4-6 – Daniel in the lion’s den is often depicted as a fun story, but what we read here is anything but fun. Has the meaning of this story been stunted?

September 15 – Daniel 7-9 – In most instances in scripture when a person meets an angel the angel’s name is not given, but this angel’s name is given. Why?

September 16 – Daniel 10-12 – The second half of Daniel is very different than the first half. Why do you think a change occurred?

September 17 – Ezra 1-3 – Some of the exiles were overjoyed upon their return and others were despondent. Why did the exiles have different responses for their return to Israel?

September 18 – Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137 – The people of Israel faced some difficult challenges upon their return. Some are naturally overwhelmed. How would you have responded to these challenges?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · September 11, 2016

Common Problems

“A Living Hope”

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

- **We are born again to a _____**
_____.

- **Our inheritance is _____, _____**
and _____.

Topics: Hope, eternity, mercy