

Title: Jesus, Our Hope

Text: 1 Timothy 1:1-2

I. Introduction

- **Recap Previous Weeks**
 - Author: Paul (introduced by Pastor Jon)
 - Recipient: Timothy (introduced by Pastor Surface)
- **Transition Statement:** Focus on Jesus as our hope—what this meant to Paul, Timothy, and the church in Ephesus.

II. Scripture Reading

- **Reading of 1 Timothy 1:1-2**
 - Emphasis on "Jesus Christ, which is our hope."

III. Explanation of "Our Hope"

- **Definition of Hope**
 - Greek word *elpis*: expectation, especially of good.
 - Tied to eternal salvation, foundation of hope, fulfillment of promises.

IV. Scriptural Support

1. Old Testament Prophecy

- **Isaiah 42:1-4:** Promise of the coming Messiah.
- **Matthew 12:18-21:** Confirmation of Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy.
- **Luke 2:25-33:** Simeon recognizes Jesus as salvation.

V. Purpose of Understanding Jesus as Hope

- **Importance for Paul, Timothy, and the Church in Ephesus**
 - Changed Paul's life, encouraged Timothy, needed for church faithfulness.

VI. Main Points

1. Jesus, Our Hope to Paul

- **Paul's Previous Hope:** Trust in religious works, Pharisee.
- **Paul's Conversion:** Encounter with Jesus in Acts 9 changed his perspective.
- **Supporting Scriptures:**
 - ◆ *Philippians 3:20-21:* Transformation and glory.
 - ◆ *Colossians 1:27:* Christ as the hope of glory.

- ◊ *Romans 5:3-5*: Perspective on suffering and hope.
 - **Personal Connection**: Reflection on personal salvation.
- 2. **Jesus, Our Hope to Timothy**
 - **Timothy's Challenges**: Urged by Paul to stay in Ephesus, facing false teachings.
 - **Need for Encouragement**: Jesus as Timothy's strength and hope.
 - **Supporting Scripture**: *2 Timothy 1:7*—reminder of Jesus' strength.
 - **Connection with Congregation**: Reflect on current struggles and need for hope.
- 3. **Jesus, Our Hope to the Church**
 - **Reality of Church Decline**: Statistics on church closures.
 - **Challenges in Ephesus**:
 - ◊ False teachings, misuse of the law, speculation, gender roles, leadership issues, apathy, materialism, disputes.
 - **Illustration**: Church as a tree needing strong roots in Christ.
 - **Supporting Scriptures**:
 - ◊ *Ephesians 1:18-19*: Understanding hope in Jesus.
 - ◊ *Hebrews 6:19-20*: Jesus as the anchor of the soul.
 - **Encouragement**: Unity in Christ to withstand challenges.

VII. Conclusion

- **Summary of Points**:
 - Paul's transformation through hope in Jesus.
 - Timothy's encouragement to rely on that hope.
 - Application for the church to support one another in faith.
- **Next Week's Focus**: Issues facing the Ephesian church.

VIII. Discussion Questions

1. When did you first realize Jesus was your hope, and how has that changed your approach to challenges in your faith?
2. How can we support younger believers in understanding that Jesus is their strength and hope?
3. What practical steps can our church take to ensure Jesus remains our foundation and hope?