



● Our culture can cause us to miss **Christ** in **Christmas**.

● **Advent means** - The **Coming** of the Messiah.

2 purposes in Advent:

- We celebrate the **birth** of Jesus.
- We anticipate the **return** of Jesus.

Our unique perspective in Advent:

- We live in the **already**, but the **not yet**.
- Advent acknowledges our **dependance** on God.
- Advent celebrates the tension of **waiting** on God.
- The longer you wait the easier it is to lose **hope**.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy. Proverbs 13:12 (TLB)

3 responses to losing hope:

- We become **independent**.
- We tend to become **indignant**.
- We can become **indifferent**.

A lesson for us:

- Though culture is **hopeless**, we must be **hopeful**.

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him.. Luke 2:25 (NLT)

Luke 2:36-38 (NLT)

What we need to understand:

- Hope comes from our **connection** with God.

Hope comes from:

- Our understanding of God's **Character**.

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act, Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19

- Our grasp of God's **promises**.

17 When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee— 18 God can't break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. 19 It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God. Hebrews 6:17-19 (MSG)

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NIV)

Matthew 1:22-23 (CEV)

Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

How to keep hope alive:

- We need to **Look Up!**

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NLT)

- We need to **Reach Out!**

On Jesus we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:10-11

- We need to **Give In.**

18 The LORD is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope. Psalm 34:18 (TEV)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- In the Talk Dave mentioned not doing well with Los Angeles traffic. What is a difficult waiting environment for you?
- More than a religious practice, how would you define what Advent means? Have you ever considered Advent an opportunity to celebrate the 2nd coming? Do you get discouraged in waiting for Jesus to return? Does it affect your hope?
- Discuss the points under the subheading "3 responses to losing hope". Which of these do you deal with most?
- Read Luke 2:25 & Luke 2:36-38. What do these scriptures say about our hope coming from our connection with God?
- How does understanding God's character affect our hope in God? What is one quality of God's character that increases your hope?
- How does understanding God's promises affect our hope in God? What is one promise that increases your hope?
- How does looking to God increase our hope?
- How does our hope increase by reaching out to others?

**For more Talks, visit us at:
fresnoquest.com**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Today's Talk..



Information available in the courtyard.