

Advent II Sermon 3 by Bishop Michael Hawkins

By the Right Reverend Michael W. Hawkins

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God is our hope.

Christian hope is not optimism - most definitely not optimism about human nature, nor about the course of the world. Our Epistle speaks of this hope, which is for all alike, found in God. It is our faith and trust in God, and in his sovereign goodness, which gives birth to hope. This hope is not worldly. In fact, our Gospel teaches us that the Christian hope is found in the destruction of worldliness. When all worldliness is destroyed, then we are to look up and see our redemption drawing near.

Nor is this hope founded upon worldly circumstances. It is, rather, to trust joyfully in God, like Abraham, who against hope, believed in hope. This hope is not grounded in things that pass away, nor is it some expectation of earthly reward and delight.

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We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things that are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we are saved by hope; we hope for what we do not see, and we wait for it with patience.

The Scriptures are this book of hope, for all peoples, and their purpose is to give all peoples hope, that they might be strong and patient. These things were written that we might get a hold on, and never let go of, the hope of eternal life, which is ours in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.