



THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES: HOPE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Scripture says our hope is in the Lord. Hope is the topic of motivational speakers and used often in inspirational talks. Theologically and psychologically hope is the "sine qua non" (which means "without which there is nothing") of life. This Sunday we wrap ourselves around the meaning of hope and the practical way the scripture invites us into it.

First Step - Read Scripture

Psalms 39:7

Matthew 28:20

- Step In -

Last week's sermon discussed faith. What is the difference between faith and hope?

Hope keeps faith from collapsing under the burden of disappointment and delay. (Victor Sheppard, March 1999) Each of us faces insecurity at one time or another. Reread Psalms 39:7. What is hope that it reflects God's promise of security in an uncertain world?

- Step Up -

A paraphrase of a line in the classic Christmas tale, Miracle on 34th Street, is that hope is believing when everything around you seems to prove otherwise. In what way does hope keep you going?

What happens when hope is absent? What can bring hope back?

- Step Out -

Each of us faces insecurity at one time or another. In your times of insecurity how does your belief in hope, sustain you?

What can each of us do to share the gift of hope with others?

Gary Chapman writes that "Love is not the answer to everything, but it creates a climate of security in which we can seek answers to those things that bother us." How does God's promise to us in Matthew 28:20 create such a climate?

Sermon Notes