

Jesus Is . . . Hope
March 15, 2020
Sermon by Joe White

Pastor Ted Cunningham and Travis Brawner, MD, gave a pre-sermon talk regarding streaming, rather than meeting together as a decision of wisdom and concern, not fear. They encouraged us in four specific areas.

1. Faith, not fear. **Read 2 Timothy 1:7. For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline (ASV).** Ted contrasted fear with faith in Jesus. Have you felt fear during the coronavirus outbreak? If so, where is that fear originating? How does faith counter that?
2. Hope, not hype. Have you been sucked into some of the hype surrounding the coronavirus? (such as hoarding TP) Please share. **Read Romans 15:13. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (NIV).** According to this scripture, from where does hope originate? How does hope change our outlook?
3. Action, not apathy. What specific steps can we take to help ourselves, our family, our friends, and our community in this virus outbreak?
4. Prayer, not paranoia. Prayer for: the theaters, the attractions, the stores, the restaurants, small business owners, and all of their employees. Take a few minutes now as a group and pray for our community.

Joe White's sermon topic was "Jesus is Hope."

5. Joe mentioned that when they were on the verge of financial disaster, his wife said, "I don't care." She was placing her hope in Jesus. He shared that she had a difficult childhood, which had prepared her for suffering as an adult. **Read Romans 5:2b-4. [A]nd not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope (NASB).** Please share how God has used some difficult situation in your life to build perseverance, character, and hope.
6. Joe mentioned that in many of our lives, hope is on trial. Personally, he has suffered greatly in his body over the last 20 years, starting with cancer and progressing to heart issues, back issues, an amputation, wounds that won't heal, 23 surgeries, and an excruciating amount of pain. How would you describe Joe's attitude about his situation? How does that relate to your life?
7. **Read John 16:33. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world (NASB).** How did Jesus overcome the world? What does his overcoming mean for our ultimate future?
8. Joe mentioned our earthly tent in the following scripture refers to our bodies. What does the "building" from God refer to? **Read 2 Corinthians 5:1. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (NASB).** What are some ways you would contrast an earthly tent and a heavenly building?
9. Joe told the story of a man who had professed faith, but in college made science and math his God. His girlfriend prayed that she would rather spend eternity with her boyfriend later, than live on earth with him now without him following Jesus. He later became sick with cancer, but before he died, came back to the Lord. What are your top priorities for your loved ones? Health, money, success, something else, or a relationship with Jesus?
10. Joe told the story of a man who was despondent when he lost his family and turned to alcohol for solace. He had put his hope in man and family. He realized that he was in the center of the map of his life. Who is in the center of the map of your life? Yourself, someone else, or Jesus? How do our lives change when Jesus is the center?