

Hope and Encouragement

Motivations for Keeping the Faith

Colossians 2:1-3

We all stand in need of hope and encouragement. Without hope, life has no meaning. Without encouragement, life has no comfort or joy. The Bible will help us to see how both hope and encouragement can thrive.

God Loves Us

- He cares about our welfare (Matt. 6:26, 30)
- He chastens us (Heb. 12:4-13)
- He paid the ultimate price to secure our salvation (Rom. 5:10)
- We are privileged to share the Good News (I Pet. 2:9; II Pet. 3:15)

Jesus is Our Friend

- He keeps close company with those who trust and obey (Jn. 15:14)
- He is our perfect example of God (Jn. 1:1, 14, 18; 14:8-9)
- He is our mentor (Gal. 2:20; II Cor. 3:18)

We are Part of God's Family

- We are His children (I Jn. 3:1)
- We find strength in the body (Eph. 4:16)
- We are needed (I Cor. 12:14-18)
- We can share and respond (I Cor. 12:26)
 - Simple pleasures
 - Cards, calls, visits
 - A helping hand
 - Working with those who share our love for Jesus

Jesus is Coming Back for His Own

- He has prepared a place for us (Jn. 14:1-3)
- We can comfort one another with this expectation (I Thess. 4:18)
- We have hope (Rom. 8:24-25)!

The Greatest Motivation

- Loving and being Loved by Jesus (Jn. 14:15, 23; II Cor. 5:14-15)
- God's most personal assurances and motivations come through the One who came as one of us (Heb. 4:14-16).

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10/12/08 (PM)