



UNWRAPPING THE GOSPEL

Advent sermon series 2023



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Advent 1. The Gift of Hope. 1 Peter 1:13

Advent 2. The Gift of Salvation. 1 John 4:10

Advent 3. The Gift of Peace. Ephesians 2:11-22

Advent 4. The gift of Joy. Romans 15:13

Christmas Eve. The gift of Life. Romans 6:23

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news (GOSPEL) to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

- 1 Peter 1:3-16

“In reality, hope is the worst of all evils, because it prolongs man’s torments.”

—Friedrich Nietzsche,
“All Too Human: A Book for Free Spirits”

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ... having no hope and without God in the world.

- Ephesians 2:12

“And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope until the end.”

- Hebrews 6:12

Faith and Hope in the Bible:

Faith is trusting God in the present...and Hope is trusting God for the future.

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- 2 Cor. 4:17-18

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Main Idea:

The Gospel gives us a future Hope that changes how we behave in the present.

I Peter 1:3-13

- 3-12: Rehearses the Gospel of Hope
- 13-16: Instructs us in Gospel-living

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—1 Peter 1:3-6

19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever.

- Hebrews 6:19-20

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The Gospel gives us a future Hope that changes how we behave in the present.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation (unveiling, appearing. i.e. “second coming”) of Jesus Christ.

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14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

- 1 Peter 1:14-15

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'Daughter,' he said, 'have pity on my gray hairs; have pity on thy father. Do not give me over to disgrace. Behold thy brothers, thy mother, and thy aunt: behold thy child who cannot live without thee. Do not destroy us all.' "Just a pinch of incense. . . you don't have to mean it in your heart." Thus spoke my father, kissing my hands, and throwing himself at my feet.

And I wept because of my father, for he alone of all my family would not rejoice in my martyrdom. So I comforted him, saying: 'In this trial what God determines will take place. We are not in our own keeping, but in God's.' "My father,' I said, 'you see this vase. Can we call it by any other name than what it is?' 'No,' he said. 'Nor can I', I said, 'call myself by any other name than that of Christian.'



— The Martyr Perpetua-
“Anti-Nicene Church Fathers”