



A Christ-focused Word-centered Family

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What Makes Our Hope Distinctly Christian?

Mike Brummel



Have you ever felt boxed in by trying circumstances? Have the difficulties and uncertainties of life ever made you feel short of breath—claustrophobic, perhaps? The hardships we encounter in this world—whether they have to do with money, relationships, health, work, peer pressure, or persecution (the list is endless!)—call for a response on our part: Will we waste away in fear? Or will we hope?

For the Christian, hope is the appropriate response. Being a Christian makes a difference in how we live and move and have our being in this world, and our responses to tribulation ought to be distinct as well ([John 16:33](#); [Acts 14:22](#)).

The term “hope” gets used a lot in everyday conversation, usually when we’re talking about something we wish or desire. But what does it mean, actually? Or, perhaps the bigger question is: does it matter whether or not the thing hoped for comes to pass, as long as we exercise hope? The Bible has answers to these questions. Here are three biblical truths that ought to shape our definition and experience of hope:

1. Christian hope stands in contrast to possession.

The apostle Paul says, “Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” ([Rom. 8:24–25](#)). Hope ultimately looks forward in eager expectation to the fulfillment of God’s promise of resurrection and new creation ([Rom. 5:2](#); [Col. 1:5](#); [2 Pet. 3:13](#)). This is our ultimate hope and joy: We will enjoy the Triune God in glorified bodies along with all

the saints and the holy angels in the fully-realized kingdom of God. We may not yet be in possession of this reality, but we can “set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”(1 Pet. 1:13). As Christians, our identities aren’t exhausted by worldly concerns; instead, they are powerfully shaped by the age to come.

2. Christian hope is certain.

The matters about which we hope are by no means uncertain or tentative to us, like the outcome of a football game or the roll of a pair of dice. God himself is the reason why hope is a “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Heb. 6:19). Hope looks to and finds its nourishment in God’s promises. And God’s promises are rooted in God’s faithfulness—his steadfast commitment to fulfill those promises. Because God is trustworthy, we can have confidence that not one word of all the good promises that he has made to his church will fail; all will come to pass (cf. Joshua 21:45). Not only that, but God’s infinite power also ensures that his promises will certainly come to pass. We may feel as though our circumstances are fixed and insurmountable, but with God all things are possible (Matt. 19:26)!

What’s more, the Scriptures repeatedly identify God as the source of our hope. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the LORD as “the hope of Israel”; Paul speaks of God as nothing less than “the God of hope”; and we also read of “Christ Jesus our hope” (Jer. 17:13; Rom. 15:13; 1 Tim. 1:1).

3. Christian hope impacts day-to-day life.

Knowing that our future is both bright and secure in Christ, we can hold our heads high in the day of adversity, trusting that our trials, while real, are only temporary. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us,” the apostle Paul writes (Rom. 8:18). Even when life is shining beautifully upon us, our hope keeps us from setting our hearts on worldly prosperity, as if that were our ultimate good and not the “eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” that awaits us (2 Cor. 4:17). Hope provides a continual reminder to us that we are but pilgrims on this earth. In Christ, we are making our way to a better country, where our true citizenship lies (Phil. 3:20–21; Heb. 11:13–16).

This heavenly citizenship doesn’t just leave us pining for the future. Our hope in God also teaches us to love our neighbors well, since love “hopes all things” (1 Cor. 13:7). Christian hope, a hope radically informed by love, instructs us to anticipate the best for our neighbor, to never consider them beyond help. If God can rescue hardened sinners like Paul, who previously persecuted the church—or even us, who were once dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1)—then certainly God can save and transform anyone by his grace.

Our hope in the age to come is evidenced by persistent prayer for others, by turning the other cheek when wronged (Matt. 5:39), by compassion and kindness (Col. 3:12), and even by laying down our lives for others (1 John 3:16). Knowing that our final inheritance is secured through the resurrection, that we are destined for the new creation, we can now aim to love God and our neighbors with our days on earth.

Mike Brummel is the Associate Pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in Lynden, WA. He received a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Westminster Seminary California and is currently a ThM student at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.



Father, I pray for each and every child of every age that will be heading away from home to attend school this year. I pray that you cover them in your full armor so they may repel the enemy's tactics.

I pray for their health and safety and that school administrators are able to prepare a healthy and safe environment for them to learn in.

I pray that each child is able to put aside their fear and worry so they may fully enjoy the resources in learning that they'll be provided. I pray for the parents who may be home worrying.

I pray they trust that you will be watching and protecting their children during this time away from home. And I pray that you will destroy any tactic the enemy wishing to use to do harm or cause temptation to these young, innocent souls.

And I pray that each day, each and every child will come home, safe and full of joy, ready to share in the excitement of everything they learned. Amen

AUGUST AT UNITED LUTHERAN

TUESDAY, August 1

5:00-8:00 VBS

7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting

WEDNESDAY, August 2

9:30 Women's Bible Study

5:00-8:00 VBS

NO YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY, August 3

No Sarah or Ruth Circle in August

SUNDAY, August 6

9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

WEDNESDAY, August 9

9:30 Women's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Supper & Youth Group

THURSDAY, August 10

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

SUNDAY, August 13

9:00 a.m. Worship

Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

2:30 p.m. Hillcrest Service

TUESDAY, August 15

6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Team

7:00 p.m. Parish Education Meeting

WEDNESDAY, August 16

9:30 Women's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Supper & Youth Group

SUNDAY, August 20

9:00 a.m. Worship

Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

Blood Pressure Checks!

MONDAY, August 21

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!

WEDNESDAY, August 23

9:30 Women's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Supper & Youth Group

SUNDAY, August 27

9:00 a.m. Worship

Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

WEDNESDAY, August 30

9:30 Women's Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Supper & Youth Group



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Please find a substitute & notify the church office if you are unable to be present.

ALTAR GUILD for August: Teresa Granquist & Racquel Holloway

August 6 (Green) Communion

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Doug Olson

USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Kames, Gabe Abts,
Marlin Bose, Jon Mullen

GREETERS - Jon and Sara Pehrson & Family

COMMUNION STEWARD - Dustin Showen

MUSICIAN - Glenda Johnson

NURSERY - Kayla Detlefsen & Kalin Olson

COFFEE - Verneal & Anita Gade, Tom & Pam
Bierbaum, Craig & Arlyls Monson

August 13 (Green)

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Steve Luedtke

USHERS - Steve, Jacob & Cody Luedtke, Nick Kort,
Drew & Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl,
Jon Pehrson

GREETERS - Jacob and Mandi Swanson & Family

MUSICIAN - Anita Gade

NURSERY - Teresa Granquist & Krista Luedtke

COFFEE - Jon & Sara Pehrson, Jerry & Shelley
Groene, Scott & Diane Urwiler

August 20 (Green)

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Diane Peterson

USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
Urwiler, Greg & Deb Urwiler, Don & Erica
Diedeker

GREETERS - Diane Peterson

MUSICIAN - Sherie Lundahl

NURSERY - Stephanie Urwiler

COFFEE - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Heath & Mckenzie
Roeber, Nick & Amy Kort

August 27 (Green)

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Mindy Christensen

USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott &
Evan Urwiler, Tom Biernbaum

GREETERS - Katie & Henry Bose

MUSICIAN - Glenda Johnson

NURSERY - Mandi Swanson

COFFEE - Lisa Kames, Jon & Megan Mullen, Tim &
Teresa Granquist

Altar Guild for September : Sharyl Luedtke & Rozanne Hintz

September 3 (Green) Communion

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Cathie Jacobsen

USHERS - Verneal Gade, Craig Kames, Gabe Abts,
Marlin Bose, Jon Mullen

GREETERS - Joe & Mary Ankeny

COMMUNION STEWARD - Nathan Abts

MUSICIAN - Anita Gade

NURSERY - Samantha Pehrson & Katie Bose

COFFEE - Dustin & Laura Showen, Drew & Kayla
Detlefsen, Diane Peterson

September 10 (Green)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

LECTOR - Stephanie Urwiler

USHERS - Steve, Jacob & Cody Luedtke, Nick Kort,
Drew & Koby Detlefsen, Ron Lundahl,
Jon Pehrson

GREETERS - Brian and Tiffany Ebberson & Family

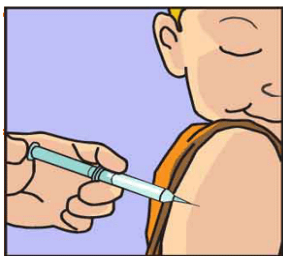
MUSICIAN - Sherie Lundahl

NURSERY - Amy Kort

COFFEE - Matthew & Kiley Maxon, Don & Erica
Diediker, Charley & Paige Green

**SERVING
OPPORTUNITIES
EVERYONE HAS A PLACE**

ALL UNITED LUTHERAN MEMBERS - If you would like your name added or removed from any of the Worship Assistant duties please notify the Church office. We strive to include everyone in all aspects of service throughout the Church. Please don't hesitate to have your name added any place if you so desire and we will gladly refrain from asking you to serve if you don't care to serve. Thank you for all that you do.



Immunization Awareness Month

**Ready for school?
Make sure those vaccine records are up to date.**

Babies and Young Children

A healthy start begins with on-time vaccinations.

Pregnant Women

Protect yourself and pass protection on to your baby.

Adults

Vaccines are not just for kids.

Over 50- Have you gotten your shingles shot?

Preteens/Teens

Ensure a healthy future with vaccines.

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Annual Eye Exams are the best way to make sure your child's eyes are allowing them to do their best in school. August has arrived and that means that many parents are preparing their children for another school year. August has been declared Children's Eye Health and Safety Month by Prevent Blindness America. When 80% of learning occurs through the eyes, healthy vision is essential to a child's success in the classroom. In addition to buying school supplies and new clothes, don't forget to add scheduling a comprehensive eye exam as part of your back to school to-do list.



MOSQUITO BITE PREVENTION

HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST MOSQUITO BITES



Mosquitoes bite during the day and night. They live indoors and outdoors. Protect your family from mosquito bites. Use insect repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, and take steps to control mosquitoes indoors and outdoors.

Use insect repellent

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone.
- Always follow product label instructions.
- Reapply insect repellent as directed.
 - » Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
 - » If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- The effectiveness of non-EPA registered insect repellents, including some natural repellents, is not known.



Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants Treat clothes and gear

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Treat items such as boots, pants, socks, and tents with permethrin or buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.
 - » Permethrin is an insecticide that kills or repels mosquitoes.
 - » Permethrin-treated clothing will protect you after multiple washings. See product information to find out how long the protection will last.
 - » If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions.
- Do not use permethrin products directly on skin.



EPA-registered active ingredients

Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection

DEET

Picaridin (known as KBR and icaridin outside the US)

IR3535

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)

Para-menthane-diol (PMD)

2-undecanone



Find the insect repellent that's right for you by using [EPA's search tool](#).

The EPA's search tool is available at: www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Protect babies and children

- Always follow instructions when applying insect repellent to children.
- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
 - » Instead dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs.
 - » Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD) on children younger than 3 years old.
- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, cuts or irritated skin.
 - » Adults: spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.



Control mosquitoes indoors

- Keep windows and doors shut and use air conditioning if possible.
- Use, install, or repair window and door screens.
- **Once a week**, empty or throw out any items that hold water like vases and flowerpot saucers.
- Use an indoor insect fogger or indoor insect spray to kill mosquitoes and treat areas where they rest. These products work immediately, but may need to be reapplied. Always follow label instructions.

Control mosquitoes outdoors

- **Once a week**, empty or throw out any items that hold water like vases and flowerpot saucers.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, rain barrels, etc.)
- For containers without lids, use mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.
- Use larvicides to treat large containers of water that will not be used for drinking and cannot be covered or dumped out.
- Use an outdoor insect spray in dark humid areas where mosquitoes rest, like under patio furniture or in the carpet or garage. Always follow label instructions.
- If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps. Cover vent or plumbing pipe openings using mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.



Learn more: www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes