

Living With Advent

HOPE

PART 1

Advent 2022

READ HEBREWS 6:18-20

INTRODUCTION

There are people who wonder how they can trust God because of all the problems they have with religion. There is doubt and there is skepticism about fully committing to a God that allows pain and suffering. What they do not realize is that we are able to trust Him because of His nature. It comes down to what our definition of “holy” is. When we look at this section of Scripture we see that God is more than a human in His emotions and His care for us. He is ultimately holy and righteous and because of what those two words mean, we can trust Him.

God does not lie. It is an impossibility. That means that He does what He says He will do and we can trust that because He is holy and righteous, He will not lie to us because if He did lie, He would cease being God. We can rest in the comfort of knowing that God has promised safety and forgiveness to those who confess and believe. (1 John 1:9) If we are forgiven, and He no longer sees our transgressions, we can trust that we will no longer come under His judgement of wrath but be welcomed into His family. This is not only a relief but, also it is a great source of hope in this world.

Jesus is the One who has given us access to the Father. He is the One that made it possible for us to rest in His love. There are still troubles and trials that we go through but it is possible to experience hope and rest when we understand that Jesus has paid the price for our sins. That means that there is no longer anything to pay. We rest in that hope and take great encouragement in it. If we have a God that will die on a cross to forgive us of our sins, in order that we can experience His glory and goodness, how is it then that we could not experience a wonderful hope and rest in our daily life?

LIVING WITH ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What causes you to lose sight of the hope that we have been given? What is the hope that we have been given?
2. How can we better understand the definition of holiness? What does it do to our daily walk when we have a right understanding of “holy” and “righteous”? Why?
3. Is it a good thing or a bad thing that God cannot lie? Why? How can we apply that to our own way of interacting with others?
4. Why did God choose to send Jesus as payment for our sins? Does His sacrifice give you hope? Why or why not?
5. What are some practical things that you can do to rest in the hope that you have been given? How can we encourage each other in that?

WRAP UP

Jesus did something on the cross that none of us could ever hope to do. He was the perfect sacrifice that did not deserve the punishment of sin and yet, took it for us. He did that out of love but also, out of obedience to the Father. There was a hope in Him that we would be able to see the glory of God the Father and that we might hear Him welcome us into His eternal rest. That is our hope!