

## A Thrill of Hope: Devotions for Christmastime

### *Week 4: The Result of Hope*

**Focal Passage:** Ephesians 1:18

**Supporting Passage:** Ephesians Chapter 1

**Focal Point:** This Christmas pray that God will open your eyes and hearts to the immeasurable hope we have in Christ Jesus.

**Song for the Week:** There Will Be a Day by Jeremy Camp

**Verse to Meditate on for the Week:** Ephesians 1:18

#### **Devotional Thought:**

In a society, country, and world seemingly devoid of hope, we as believers should have confidence and reassurance in this present life and eternity because of the miraculous birth, life, death, resurrection, and coming return of Christ Jesus. It is so easy to become discouraged by our circumstances and to have an attitude that life is a daily grind. Even events and daily news can fill our hearts with hopelessness if we are not careful to focus on kingdom things.

In Ephesians chapter 1 the apostle Paul is reminding the recipients of the immeasurable blessings and hope they have in Jesus Christ. The completed work of Christ should always humble us and encourage us. This year as you see the manger scenes with baby Jesus allow your hearts to echo the words of Simeon in the temple when he saw the baby Jesus he had prayed for his entire life: **Luke 2:29-32**

<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,  
and you may let your servant go in peace.  
<sup>30</sup> With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:  
<sup>32</sup> A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles  
and bring glory to your people Israel.”

The result of our salvation is hope!

#### *Discussion Questions:*

- *As we celebrate Christmas together this year, where do you place your hope?*
- *Does that little baby in a manger we proclaim as savior continue to give you hope amid a chaotic world?*

#### *Activities:*

- *Find Christmas songs with the word hope in them and listen to them or sing them.*
- *Share the hope by visiting someone or contacting someone you have not spoken with in a while. Pray for them and tell them you have been praying for them this Christmas.*
- *Take the time to write down the reasons you have hope in Christ with scripture references so that you can “Share the Hope” when God presents you with opportunities.*

*Merry Christmas!*