

## ***Christ our Hope***

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope” (1 Timothy 1:1).*

As we begin the first Sunday of Advent 2025, we rejoice in the “blessed hope” of what Christmas is all about. As we light a candle each Sunday, we are reminded of the eternal significance of our Savior’s birth, and we see the incarnation of the Son of God, the Light of the World, the King of the ages, and the Hope of Glory. You see, Christmas is more than just festive decorations and Black Friday sales; Christmas is about God entering His very own creation through the womb of a virgin in order to release us as His people from the curse of the law of sin and death. The miracle of Christmas is truly a hopeful season, to say the least... Christmas is life-changing. Christmas is world-altering. Christmas has literally changed our calendars, history, and futures. Christmas assures us that with Jesus, there is and always will be hope for us as the household of God.

The prophets of God that we read about in the Old Testament were the ones who first exemplified the hope of Christ. They foretold of the coming Christ child in many ways. They pinpointed the town in which he would be born in (Micah 5:2). They prophesied that Jesus would be born from a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). They shined light on to some of the eternal offices that He would hold as: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). They declared that Jesus would flee to Egypt at an early age (Hosea 11:1). And the list can go on... As these men looked forward in hope of the coming day when Christ our Hope would be born!

In a similar fashion like the prophets of old, we share this same hope... But on this side of the manger, we have a deeper and clearer vision of hope. In fact, it’s more than a vision; it’s a lifestyle. Paul tells us that this hope is living in us, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Yes, the beauty of Christmas is that Christ was born in a manger to then go to a cross to save us from our sin. And through our faith in Jesus, we are told that we are “born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

And so, this Christmas, “rejoice in hope” (Romans 12:12). For the holy hope of heaven is yours in Christ Jesus! And know that no matter what may come your way, don’t ever lose hope in Jesus! Anchor your soul in the steadfast hope of the Christ of Christmas (Hebrews 6:19). For Christ, your hope will see you through both now and forevermore!

*“Having the eyes of our hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18-19).*

*“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word” (Psalm 119:114).*

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13).*

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis