8-17-25  **LIVING COUNTER-CULTURAL**

**Hope OVER Despair**

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

 Acts 17:16-34 (NIV)

**HOLDING ONTO HOPE IN AN ANXIOUS, BROKEN WORLD**

1. **HOPE IS ANCHORED IN \_\_**

*May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? … Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.* Acts 17:19,18 (NIV)

*For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead… some became followers and believed.* Acts 17:31,34 (NIV)

*Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

Lam 3:21-23 (NLT)

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*  Isa 40:31 (NIV)

1. **HOPE EVEN IN , GOD IS HERE**

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.* Psa 34:18 (NLT)

*And weboast in the hope of the glory of God. 3Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.* Rom 5:2-5 (NIV)

*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*  2 Cor 4:16-18 (NIV)

1. **SHIFTS MY PERSPECTIVE**

*People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship – and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.*

Acts 17:22-23 (NIV)

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

Acts 16:25 (ESV)

*Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,18yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! 19The Sovereign Lord is my strength!* Hab 3:17-19 (NLT)

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* Phil 4:6 (NIV)

1. **HOPE IS A TO THE WATCHING WORLD**

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

*You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden… 15a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*  Matt 5:14-16 (NLT)

*For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.* Col 1:27 (NLT)

*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Rom 15:13 (NLT)