



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

DECEMBER 2, 2018

TAKEAWAY:

For those in Christ, He is their hope now and for eternity.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Jesus is both the nature and the object of biblical hope.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

Since Genesis 3:15, the people of God hoped for the coming of the Rescuer. Finally, He arrived on the scene to bring that hope into crystal clear focus. Today, all those who believe the gospel look back on the work of Christ on the cross in hope (Colossians 1:21-23).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What are some different things that people put their hope in?
- 2 Can you think of any interesting examples from the sports world? We might refer to them as superstitions.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Genesis 3:15.

15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

- What was the origin of the people of God's misery? What made the coming of a Rescuer necessary?
- Where else in the Old Testament do we see the promise of God to His people of a future hope?
- How did the prophets point to this future hope?

> Read Matthew 1:1, 17.

1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham.

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

- What did Jesus do to secure our hope?
- How does this secure hope for sinful man?

> Read Colossians 1:21-23.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

- What hope was Paul referring to in this passage?
- How does this hope intersect with life here and now?

APPLICATION

- 1 In what thing or person are you hoping/resting? What is your treasure? Consider the things you give most time and attention to.
- 2 What makes the hope we have in Christ different from the hope that this world offers?
- 3 What are some practical ways that you can reflect on the hope we have in Christ, the gospel?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Matthew 1:17.
- Read Matthew 1:1-17 on Monday.
- Read Matthew 1:18-25 on Tuesday.
- Read Matthew 2:1-12 on Wednesday.
- Read Matthew 2:13-18 on Thursday.
- Read Matthew 2:19-23 on Friday.
- Read Luke 1:1-25 on Saturday.