



# Sermon 5

## Facing Hopelessness in Your City

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Colossians 1:27

*“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

### Introduction

Imagine John, a young man who grew up in the heart of a massive city. From a young age, he experienced the challenges that come with city life. His parents worked long hours to make ends meet, but due to their demanding jobs, they couldn't always be present in his life.

As time went on, John entered adolescence and began to feel the brutal pressure of the city. At his school, the academic competition was fierce, and the pressure to get good grades was at its peak. Despite his efforts in studying, he sometimes felt overwhelmed by the workload and the expectations from his parents. He wondered if there was truly a future for him in that city.

In his community, safety issues were an everyday occurrence. Robberies and graffiti were common, and John had to walk through dark and partially destroyed streets when returning from school. He didn't feel safe or connected to his

neighborhood, which made him feel even more lonely and discouraged.

As John grew older, he realized that his friends and schoolmates were also facing similar challenges. Many struggled with the stress of school, economic hardships, and the lack of clear plans in the city. They questioned whether they would ever break free from the cycle of stress and experience a brighter side of life.

### Development:

The lack of hope in cities affects people all around the world. It essentially feels like there are no opportunities or a chance for things to get better, and it can be related to several causes.

- **Economic Inequality:** One of the strongest contributors to the lack of hope in cities is economic inequality. When there's a vast gap between the wealth and quality of life of different groups in the city, those at the bottom feel they have few opportunities for improvement.
- **Lack of Jobs:** Cities attract people in search of work and the promise of a better future, but when there aren't enough jobs, many are left in economic limbo, increasing the lack of hope.
- **Homelessness:** The lack of affordable housing or housing in good condition can be a significant factor in the lack of hope. If you don't have a safe and stable place to

live, you feel like you have no control over your life.

- **Insecurity and Crime:** The sense of insecurity due to high crime levels or exposure to violence in the city also contributes to the lack of hope. Sometimes, you feel trapped in your neighborhood and are afraid to seek new opportunities.

Can the lack of hope in the city be overcome? Where can we find hope? The word "hope" appears many times in the Bible and is a recurring theme, highlighting its significance in faith and our relationship with God.

Take a look at some Bible verses about hope:

- **Romans 15:13 (NIV):** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
- **Hebrews 11:1 (NIV):** "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- **Psalms 42:11 (NIV):** "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."
- **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV):** "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- **1 Peter 1:3 (NIV):** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

These verses will help us better understand hope. They are like an anchor that helps us stay steadfast in the midst of the storm. Just as a ship needs an anchor to avoid drifting, we need the following three truths to maintain hope.

### **Truth #1: The Bible – The Book of Hope:**

Romans 15:4 (NIV) tells us that

*“everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope.”*

The Bible is a treasure trove of hope. The Bible is filled with stories of people who faced challenges and obstacles but also experienced hope and divine redemption. God speaks to us through the Bible, offering us promises and words of encouragement that fill us with hope in the midst of difficult times.

To find hope, guidance, and comfort in the God’s Word you must be consistent. You cannot just read it sometimes, if you have a little spare time and other times you do not read. You must prayerfully read and study the Word every day. It must become a daily habit. Additionally, share the stories of hope from

the Bible with others to inspire and encourage those going through tough times.

### **Truth #2: Jesus – The Hope of Glory**

Colossians 1:27 tells us that

*“God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (NIV).*

Jesus is the ultimate source of hope and represents divine glory. His life, death, and resurrection offer us the hope of reconciliation with God and the promise of eternal life. Faith in Jesus transforms our lives and fills us with the hope of attaining eternal glory with Him.

To maintain hope, it’s crucial to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and reflection, experiencing His hope and transformation in our lives.

### **Truth #3: The Second Coming of Christ – Our Blessed Hope**

Titus 2:13 says,

*“while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (NIV).*

The promise that Jesus will return is a source of hope for believers. Knowing that Jesus will come back to establish His eternal kingdom fills us with anticipation and motivates us to live in holiness and preparedness. This hope

gives us the strength to face current difficulties with the certainty of a glorious future.

In challenging times, always remember the promise of the second coming of Christ to find comfort and strength.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, **the Bible offers us an infinite source of hope. Jesus is the embodiment of the hope of glory, and the second coming of Christ is our blessed hope.** By embracing these truths and applying them in our daily lives, we can experience hope that transcends circumstances and guides us toward an eternal future with God.

Do you remember John? One day, he had the opportunity to attend an evangelistic

conference in his city. The preacher talked about the importance of being strong, seeking opportunities, building a support network, and developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. The speaker's words deeply impacted John, who began to seek ways to improve his situation.

Although the city still had its challenges, John began to see a glimmer of hope in his future. He realized that, with effort and the right support, he could overcome obstacles and pave the way for a better life. John's story reminds us that even in the toughest cities, hope and personal growth are possible when you seek support, opportunities, and open your heart to Jesus, the hope of glory.

