

SERMON-BASED STUDY: O HOLY NIGHT

Lamentations 3:16-24, ESV – ¹⁶ He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes;

¹⁷ my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;

¹⁸ so I say, “My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD.”

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!

²⁰ My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1

This week we were reminded that the world is always weary. What does it mean for the world to be weary?

2 Likewise, we were reminded that the hope of God is always ours in the midst of the weariness. How does God's love, mercies and faithfulness provide us hope? How can we be reminded of the hope we have in Him?

3 What does the author mean by, "The Lord is my portion"? How can we have a similar understanding of our relationship with God?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **John 3:16-21, ESV** – ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

4 Looking at the passage above, what does this tell us about God and His love toward people?

5 Verse 17 tells us that God sent His Son to save the world. How do people need to respond to this gift? Why is this important for having a relationship with God?

6 How does the gift of love that God gave us through Jesus give us hope in the midst of trials and tribulations?

B **Hebrews 10:23, ESV** – ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Psalms 40:11-12, ESV – ¹¹ As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! ¹² For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

7 What does the author of Hebrews mean by, “the confession of our hope”?

8 Why is God’s faithfulness key to our confession of hope? Why are we able to hold fast to this hope?

9 Looking at Psalm 40:11-12, why is it important to remember God’s love and faithfulness in all circumstances?

TAKING IT HOME

During this season of celebration, let us remember the steadfast love of God that came to us in the form of His Son, Jesus. Let us hold fast to the hope of God, for that is all we truly need. Take some time to celebrate as a group, giving thanks to God for His gift of love and for His faithfulness.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalm 118, 119:90

Matthew 27:45-46

1 John 4:7-21