

ROOTED WEEK 4: ROOTED IN HOPE

Message Outline and Discussion Guide

Texts: Colossians 1:24-29; Revelation 21:1-5

Big Idea: Christian hope is confidence that God will keep his promises, and that confidence changes how we live while we wait.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

1. The future we expect shapes the way we live now.

- Despair can influence ordinary decisions through the question, “Why bother?”
- We can place too much confidence in one hoped-for outcome.
- Hope rooted in Christ sustains us when circumstances remain difficult.

2. Christ’s presence and power sustain faithful living.

Colossians 1:24-29

- Paul experiences suffering while serving others and helping them mature in Christ.
- “Christ in you, the hope of glory” connects Christ’s present presence with our promised future.
- Paul’s effort is real, and the strength sustaining him comes from Christ.
- We can take a faithful step without controlling someone else’s response.

3. God has promised a future we can trust.

Revelation 21:1-5

- God promises renewed creation and his presence with his people.
- His future includes the end of death, grief, and pain.
- The promise rests on the character and authority of the one seated on the throne.
- **We can trust this promise with tears still on our faces.**

4. We can live now in ways that fit God’s promised future.

- Offer patient presence and practical care to people who are hurting.
- Continue doing good when the results are difficult to measure.
- Receive help and rest while entrusting outcomes to God.
- Ordinary practices of Scripture, prayer, and shared life nurture resilient faith.

Practice for the Week: Choose one situation where discouragement or the desire for control has taken hold. Read Revelation 21:3-5 slowly each morning, bring that situation to Jesus, and take one manageable step of faithfulness.

DISCUSSION AND PERSONAL STUDY

Read each passage before working through its questions. Look closely at the wording and point to specific verses as you respond.

Read Colossians 1:24-29.

1. **In verse 24, what is Paul experiencing, and who benefits from his costly service?**
What does this suggest about the relationship between hardship and faithful ministry?
2. **According to verses 25-27, what responsibility has God given Paul?** Identify the message he has been entrusted to make known.
3. **Verse 27 specifically mentions Gentiles, or non-Jewish people. What does their inclusion reveal about the reach of God's purposes?**
4. **How does "Christ in you, the hope of glory" connect the present with the future?**
What does Paul give these believers to rely on while they wait?
5. **What is Paul's goal in verse 28, and why might he repeat "everyone" three times?**
How does that goal help us think about growth in the church?
6. **How does verse 29 hold together Paul's effort and his dependence on Christ?**
Point to the words that describe each.

Read Revelation 21:1-5.

7. **What does John see in verses 1-2?** Pay particular attention to where the holy city comes from and the direction it moves. What does this suggest about God's intentions for creation?
8. **What idea is repeated throughout verse 3?** What does that repetition tell us about the heart of the future God promises?
9. **Which realities will be absent from God's renewed creation, according to verse 4?**
How specific is this promise compared with simply saying, "Things will get better"?
10. **What does the image of God wiping away tears reveal about his relationship with his people?** How might that picture shape the way we approach him in grief?
11. **What reasons does verse 5 give us for trusting God's promise?** Notice who speaks and what John is instructed to do.
12. **Read Colossians 1:27 alongside Revelation 21:3-5. How does Revelation help fill out our understanding of the future glory Paul anticipates?**

Bring the passages into everyday life.

13. **Where has "Why bother?" started making decisions for you?** Consider a relationship, responsibility, or area of personal growth where discouragement has affected your willingness to act.
14. **How can you recognize the difference between wanting a good outcome and depending on that outcome as your source of hope?** Use an everyday example.
15. **Imagine receiving a family text accusing you of leaving all the caregiving to others. How could hope in Christ change both your reply and your practical**

follow-through? Consider what faithfulness would look like even if an apology or thank-you never comes.

16. **How could Revelation 21:4 shape the way you sit with someone who is grieving?**

Consider words and actions that make room for both sorrow and hope.

17. **Where might trusting Christ's power involve receiving help, sharing responsibility, or resting?** What outcome would you need to entrust to God?

18. **Choose one situation in which to practice hope this week. What specific, manageable step will you take?** Consider how reading Revelation 21:3-5, praying honestly, and involving another believer could support that step.

A Prayer for the Week

"Jesus, you are here. Help me trust what you have promised. What does faithfulness look like here today?"