

Christmas Day 2017

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all May you have perfect peace as you trust/believe in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.

Jesus is God of Hope - John 8:58 *"What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus answered. "Before Abraham was born, I am!"*

Jesus said in **John 10:30** that He was one with the Father.

John 1:3 tells us, Everything came into existence through *him*. Not one thing that exists was *made without him*. Jesus was there at the beginning of time.

Col 1:15-18 *We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body*

A life of purpose can only be found in Jesus. Outside of Jesus - no purpose - Aimless!

For us as believers there is hope beyond the grave because of Jesus who opened the door to heaven by his death and resurrection.

Jer 29:11 tells us the God has a future and a hope for all of us.

Matt 12:18-21 (NLT) *Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen. He is my Beloved, who pleases me. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. 19 He will not fight or shout or raise his voice in public. 20 He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally he will cause justice to be victorious. 21 And his name will be the hope of all the world."*

Jesus is the Prince of Peace - Everyone is looking for peace today in a world of conflict and hatred and turmoil. Eph 2:14 tells that Jesus is our peace , breaking down walls that divide bringing unity between jews and gentiles breaking down barriers of hatred and hostility.

There is true reconciliation through Jesus. Jesus was born to reconcile people and bring unity and oneness amongst all peoples. Beacuse of what Jesus did on the cross we are identified as one family in Him

Eph 2:14-18 [nirv] *Christ himself is our peace. He has made Jews and Gentiles into one group of people. He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us. 15 Through his body on the cross, Christ set aside the law with all its commands and rules. He planned to create one new people out of Jews and Gentiles. He wanted to make peace between them. 16 He planned to bring both Jews and Gentiles back to God as one body. He planned to do this through the cross. **On that cross, Christ put to death their hatred toward one another.** 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away. He also preached peace to those*

who were near. 18 Through Christ we both come to the Father by the power of one Holy Spirit.)

There are many barriers that divide us today, age, appearance, intelligence, political views, economic status, race, religion, colour, even theological differences which are stifling the love of Jesus Christ... but thank God for Jesus, who came and knocked down these barriers to unify all believers in Himself through the cross.

When a person encounters the cross of Jesus all barriers are broken - Hallelujah! That is why you see many Christian organisations working in war torn countries helping and assisting those in need - because of the cross.

Palestine and Israel must come to the cross of Jesus for genuine peace. Your peace can only come from Jesus and no one else through the cross.

Have we come to that cross of Jesus and laid down our lives with burdens and problems?

Have we asked Jesus this amazing King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords into our lives? Are we walking daily with Jesus through the Holy Spirit? **2Cor 1:22** it is He who has also put His seal on us [that is, He has appropriated us and certified us as His] and has given us the [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as a pledge [like a security deposit to guarantee the fulfillment of His promise of eternal life]

So we who have chosen to know and follow him, find hope in him. We are sure that his life, death, and resurrection have changed everything. You don't have to believe this. He won't make you. He won't bruise you or force you or coerce you. That isn't his way. But he does invite you. He does welcome you home to hope.

The choice is entirely yours. It is Christ, or it is chaos. I'm placing my faith in Jesus. And I'm absolutely sure he is the hope that you and I need!