



Más HOPE

December 3, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: John 1:1-18

Today, we begin our advent season, which marks the 4 weeks that lead up to the birth of Jesus Christ, in a new series called, 'Christ-MAS' - and for our non-South Floridian friends, 'más' means more in English.

Watch Christ Journey messages at:
ChristJourney.org/Messages



NOTES

Más means 'more' in Spanish.

Do you need Christ-MÁS this season? More Jesus?

Hope is like a buoyant life preserver that keeps our head above water.

The first 18 verses of the book of John give the full description and meaning of everything that Jesus was... and is... and did... for us.

John uses imagery from the creation story in the book of Genesis to portray Jesus as the new creation.

He also refers to imagery from the tabernacle story in the book of Exodus to introduce Jesus as the Incarnation of the God of Israel.

Visit ChristJourney.org/messages and click on "Exodus".

John follows up each description with an account of John the Baptist as a WITNESS, and then offers a CHOICE:

What will you choose to believe?

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God." - John 1:1-2

Jesus existed before the foundations of the world.

God created all things, including all people, through what John calls 'the Word' – Jesus.

Words embody who you are so, in a way, Jesus as 'the Word' embodies the very heart, essence and mind of God. Jesus is God.

"The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born." Psalm 33:6

"The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

- Isaiah 40:8

"You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope." - Psalm 119:114

"For the Word of God will never fail." - Luke 1:37



God's Word, referring to Jesus, is eternal. He was, is, and always will be. In a world as fleeting as ours, this gives us reason to hope.

When we invite Jesus' eternal nature to guide our thinking over the fleeting things of this world, then he fills us with **MÁS hope** than we could ever imagine.

Jesus' identity - the Word is both with God and also is God.

"The Father and I are one." - John 10:30

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." - John 14:9

If you want to know the character and heart of our Father God, Jesus says, then look at me. I am the visible image of the invisible God. Know me, trust me, listen to me, and walk with me.

"God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." John 1:3-5

"Let there be light." - Genesis 1:3

God's light brought life to a lifeless nothing, and now Jesus brings forth the **LIGHT** of life to a dark world broken by sin.

But there is an enemy of God's creation who desires to undo all that God does by introducing sin to poison God's good creation with deceit, division, and death.

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." - John 10:10

What if this Christmas you received Christ-MÁS to remake you into a new creation with a hope and eternal future?

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." - John 1:14

The Greek word from which we receive the phrase 'made his home among us' is '**ESKINOSO**' which literally translates as 'to live in a tent' – a parallel to the tabernacle tent where God dwelled with His people throughout the Exodus wilderness journey.



But this time God showed up for us as a human being to lead us to our true promised land.
He offered his life as a ransom for our sins.
He has put the deathblow to the enemy of creation.
He will bring about his defeat once and for all.

This is the Christ of Christmas.

John included the **WITNESS** of John the Baptist in the prologue to his Gospel because when we experience the Incarnation's new creation work in our lives, we become witnesses to a much greater hope than anything this world can offer.

'The Crucifixion' painting, by Matthias Grünewald, shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus as if to say, "Look at Him. He is our Savior and Lord."

"I simply want my life to resemble the finger of John the Baptist." Karl Barth

When we invite Jesus to take up residence in our heart, we become living witnesses - life pointers - to the HOPE of Christ-MÁS!

Will you choose to receive new creation life through the incarnate Word of God?

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." - John 1:12

What kind of love is that?

When it all hits the fan, what do you turn to? What gives you the strength to take the next step?

If you're open to taking that step, then you will discover that Jesus' hand is ready to receive you before your foot ever touches the ground.

In the movie, Polar Express, it was the unbelieving kid, the doubter, who got invited to the North Pole to visit Santa's workshop.

We're ALL that kid.

We've made decisions based on unbelief - not in Santa but in God - which have resulted in the de-creation our souls.



In His extraordinary grace, Jesus invites us to receive His eternal hope - not based on our own merit, but entirely on His deep love for us.

“Sometimes, the most real thing in life is what you cannot see.”

The Conductor, Polar Express

Jesus sees you - the unbeliever, the doubter, the one who looks inside and hates what you see - and He came to offer you the ride of a lifetime... if you choose to receive it.

“No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us...” - John 1:18

There is no end to the possibilities of where we can place our hope: career paths, wealth building, relationships, religion, fame, education, yourself.

- But you will wake up one day feeling empty and lost.

This Christmas choose to place your hope in our Heavenly Father’s new creation work... Jesus.

