

December 20th, 2020

# He's Still\* Got the Whole World In His Hands

## "How to Remain Hopeful In A Hopelessly Broken World"

Pastor Billy's Notes

### Welcome Out To He's Still Got the whole World In his Hands.

In this series our main point has been that even in the midst of Uncertainty that **He's STILL Got the whole world in his hands.**

BUT THIS IS DECEMBER AND WERE SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT BABY JESUS.

Don't worry that's what the Christmas Adam Service is all about. Because just like you had the anticipation and expectation that if you go to church in December that they will be talking about Baby Jesus and trust me EVERY PASTOR I KNOW if doing that and talking about the manger and the shepherds and the Maji but if you haven't realized it (Were not like every other church) and while it may not seem all that different at first when you stick around you notice that over and over one thing after another isn't just like any other church and some people that doesn't work for but your still hanging in there.

I did this December this way because of the gap between the Old and the new testament and the 400 years of anticipation and the wondering and waiting to when the Savior would finally come. They uncertainty of that time and all through the Bible was climaxing. I did that because of this one little verse in **Psalm 33:22 - "May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you."**

Today I want to talk about one of the most difficult tensions you will manage in life: **how to remain hopeful in a hopelessly broken world.**

Every one of us will wrestle at some level with this dilemma.

**Have you ever had something or someone you placed your hope in come crashing down?**

#### First a couple of introductory thoughts on hope:

1. **Hope: a person or thing in which my expectations are centered.**
2. The person or thing in which you have placed your confidence as related to your future.
3. From the day we are born, we place our hope in something. **It's starts off as our parents.**
4. At some point, that hope shifts when they prove to be unreliable or we choose to **place it elsewhere.** (In that first love, in that science teacher that is teaching that God is just a myth, in that job, that career, in that drug, that
5. **Hope is like a ladder we lean against a wall.** We trust it to support our **dreams/security/future.**
6. This is something we never think about until it begins to dissipate. Until the ladder begins to shake, or when you are at the TOP and it's wobbly. Like air. When it begins to evaporate, we gasp for hope like we gasp for air.
7. **We feel hopeless/helpless/powerless.**
8. The older we get, the more prone we are to lean our ladders against people and **things that promise financial and emotional security.**

We try to be an honest church here at Innovation not wearing any mask and being open and honest about our failures Is anyone will to do that today?

**Moving the ladder all around the room for the different things that we have placed our hope in.**

**marriage, career, wealth, health, engagement, academic, athletics.**

Then after you have been burned so many times you get to the point of... "Why even try? What's the use? What's the point?" **ANYONE know this dilemma.**

**Did you know that** - The leading causes of suicide center on an overwhelming sense of hopelessness relationally or financially.

**Throughout the pages of Scripture, we are told to put our hope in God.**

I would say that **The only way to maintain hope in a broken world is to place our hope in God.**

**I use the word MAINTAIN there because it REQUIRES MAINTENANCE, that continual investment, that continual work, the things that you look for when you're buying a car right. A Maintenance LOG - (Following Jesus Book & 30 discipleship Exercises )**

**But we don't stay in a pattern of regular maintenance to our faith and growing in our faith & Hope and discipleship because...**

- We are hesitant in this nation to do that because **we aren't convinced our world is that broken. Or it's just "Those People"**
  1. We believe that we can lead ourselves through exercise, drugs, surgery, and education to a place where we are untouchable.
  2. **And we lean our ladders here and there and what about over here.**
  3. Then we go to work ensuring that it stays there. Or the ladder keeps growing and growing and we try harder and harder and climb higher and higher and it gets wobblier and wobblier.
- But the things of this world don't support the weight... they don't because the world is broken... more broken than we know.

The Bible addresses this head-on in many places. Perhaps the clearest is in **Romans 8**, where Paul gives us some valuable insight. This is written to Roman Christians under Nero. Instead of taking you through these verses, I want to summarize and then drop into three.

**Romans 8**

He begins with the fall when sin entered the world.

- The problem we have with sin though is that **We think of sin as an isolated act.**
- **God viewed sin as a fatal disease. Once introduced into the world, it infected and eventually killed everything.**
- **Everything with life dies.** Noticed that? **20For the creation was subjected to frustration ...**  
**[Frustrated with the inability to get what one wants.** Frustration/disappointment is intertwined into the fabric of the world. **It's normal.]**

*[Translated: Decay/sin is being allowed to run its course. **God will not stop it.** (He gave US this earth and told US to subdue it... Meaning that WE get to make our own decision. but there's consequences to that happening.*

- **The FACT IS** that **Decay/sin is being allowed to run its course. **God will not stop it.**** (WE EVEN We spend a lot of energy trying to slow it down.] make up, a nip and tuck, a serum or injection here and there...  
... in eager hope 21that the creation itself will be [future] liberated from its bondage to decay. **[It is a bad idea to attach our hope to anything in this world; it is all decaying. Nothing is really as stable as it looks.]**
- **We have heard about all the other great things but what about people... Even the great ones...**

**September 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died. June 5, 2004 - Ronald Reagan died.**

- **it is all decaying**
- This is why you **control freaks are always so frustrated.** The **world just won't cooperate. Things break. People misbehave.** Your children aren't interested in **your plan** for their lives. Your parents **won't fund** your bad ideas. It's hopeless!

**22** [This frustration creates a longing in us for something better/different; something beyond this life; salvation from the presence and the effects of sin.]

**24** For in this hope we were saved.

[Tied to a story bigger than our lives and bigger than this life. We became Christians knowing that this life wasn't what it was all about. **There was a future hope to lean into.**]

25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. [We don't give up hope. We wait. We DEAL it (Any hope dealers in the house?)]

26-30 [But God is at work NOW in this life. And when we find ourselves frustrated, God understands and hears our prayers. Even when our prayers are just groans of frustration, mourning, and agony.]

Skipping on down ...

**31** What, then, shall we say in response to these things? [All these frustrating things]

**[MOVE LADDER TO GOD'S LOVE WALL]**

**We have been invited to lean our ladders against God's love for us.**

- Love not demonstrated by the fact that we landed the job, got the scholarship, married into money, or earned a position on the team.
- Love demonstrated in history when his Son came to this earth, lived a perfect and sinless life and then **died for your sin** and secured you a spot in the family.

### **Application**

*In the meantime ...*

1. **You live out kingdom values** (You don't find your value in the things of this world, you don't place your hope in your 401k, you don't place your hope in this girl or that girl, you don't find your security in your job or your retirement or that pension, in a world of unhappy endings ... like Jesus did. Like Paul did. Mother Teresa did. Grandma did.
  - **You love even though it doesn't always make a difference.**
  - **You put others first even though it doesn't ...** •
  - **You serve...**
  - **you do your best... even if it's cleaning toilets your cleaning them as if it's the throne of God.**

2. Do we **plan**? Yes. Do we **dream**? Yes. Do we **pursue** progress? Yes. Do we **build**? Yes.

3. **Do we put all our hopes in our plans, dreams, and ambitions? No.** We hold it all with an **open hand** and say, "This is temporary. Your love is eternal."

4. **Because when we loosen our grips from around our plans, treasures, and ambitions, our plans, treasures, (Our Time, Talent, & Treasure)** THEN the ambitions loosen their grips from around our hearts. And we move our ladders (Our Hope) from... the things of this world... to God

And THAT's exactas what some of you in here and online need to do and what some of you that have been going to church ALL YOUR LIFE need to do.

### **Conclusion**

1. NOW we are discovering where our hope is leaning.
2. **Either we move it, or we lose hope.**
3. **What or whom you are hoping in determines your ability to maintain hope in a broken world.**

4. You have been invited to lean your hope against God's unending love for you.

Today I want you to see this prayer that we call the starting line to your relationship with Christ that is a declaration of the direction that we begin walking and LIVING out from THIS DAY Forward. I am going to read it and then I want for YOU to decide for yourself if you are ready to pray this prayer.

Heavenly Father, I'm a sinner IN NEED OF A SAVIOR. I have done my life my way, with no regard for your plans or purpose. But today that changes.

Today I ask you to be my Lord and Savior, to make me new, to forgive me of my sins, to fill me with your Spirit so I could serve you. Today I declare that My life is not my own, set me apart, make me different, make my life count.

Thank you for new life, today I give you mine.

In Jesus name I pray. AMEN - SO BE IT!

Let's close with this song while you think it over and then we will pray this prayer together as a church as a demonstration that we don't do this faith journey alone around here. That were family and we do this TOGETHER.

Let's pray and if you need more prayer and or get the FREE Following Jesus book and/or sign up for the NEXT baptism and go public with your faith in January. Head on out to the LOBBY and get prayer.

Now we have one last Song but it's not by us it's by our NEXT GENERATION that wants to make sure you have the WHOLE IDEA of this whole series Can you welcome our beloved Innovation Kids?

*May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you. (Psalm 33:22)*