

A LIVING HOPE

A MESSAGE FOR YOU...

WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO HOLD ON TO THE HEAVENLY HOPE THAT BRINGS LIFE:

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

We who have found safety with God are greatly encouraged to hold firmly to the hope placed before us. We have this hope as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure.

Hebrews 6:18-19

WHAT IS THIS HOPE PLACED BEFORE US?

The mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory.

Colossians 1:27 (CEV)

This selection of Holy Scripture is from the *Good News Bible*. We would encourage you to read the entire Bible. Many translations are available from www.biblescanada.com



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THE GIFT FOR LIFE

GREAT JOY!

WHEN JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO CERTAIN SHEPHERDS AND TOLD THEM:

“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born Christ the Lord!”

Luke 2.10-11

GOD IS LOVE

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS LONGED FOR A LEADER WHO WOULD MAKE GOD’S LOVE REAL IN THEIR SITUATION.

When he comes, he will rule his people with the strength that comes from the Lord and with the majesty of the Lord God himself. His people will live in safety because people all over the earth will acknowledge his greatness, and he will bring peace.

Micah 5.4-5a

THIS LONGING WAS FULFILLED WHEN JESUS CAME! HE SAID ABOUT HIMSELF:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.”

Luke 4.18-19

PEACE WITH GOD

THROUGH THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS, GOD MADE PEACE WITH THE WHOLE WORLD. THAT IS HOW JESUS CAN PROMISE PEACE FOR EACH OF US. AS THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE IN HIS LETTERS:

Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son’s blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.

Colossians 1.20

Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us by faith into this experience of God’s grace, in which we now live.

Romans 5.1,2a

AND NOW:

We rejoice because of what God has done through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has now made us God’s friends.

Romans 5.11

May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13