

CASAS ADOBES BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7, 1996

HOPE AND MEMORY

The new year is a time of hope for the future. What are you hoping for in 1996? The past year is past. It is over. I want us to think about hope for our future.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13: "Now these three remain: faith, HOPE, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

MEMORY IS STRONG.

But, HOPE IS STRONGER.

HOPE IS STRONGER THAN MEMORY.

PEOPLE LIVE ON HOPE, NOT ON MEMORY.

TAKE AWAY PEOPLE'S MEMORIES AND THEY BECOME ANXIOUS.
TAKE AWAY THEIR HOPES AND THEY BECOME TERRIFIED.

MEMORY IS STRONG.

PSALM 77:1-12: "I cried out to the Lord for help. When I was in distress I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted. . . . I thought about the former days, the years long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. . . . Then I thought, 'to this I will

appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High.' I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider your mighty deeds."

What we remember:

1. Tragic events
2. Sinful events
3. Embarrassing moments
4. Celebrative experiences
5. Hopes fulfilled

BUT, HOPE IS STRONGER.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-26: "Yet, this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.' The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

People look for hope in:

1. The Present
2. The Immediate Future
3. The Distant Future
4. The Next Life

If people can't find the realization of some of their hopes in the present,

they look to or postpone their hopes to the immediate future. If people can't find realization of their hopes in the immediate future, they postpone them to the distant future. If people can't find realization of their hopes in the distant future, they postpone them to the next life. (Because people can't live without hope.)

PEOPLE LIVE ON HOPE, NOT ON MEMORY.

OUR GOAL IS TO DRAW OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE—NOT OUR MEMORIES OF THE PAST—INTO THE PRESENT!

ECCLESIASTES 7:10: “Do not say, ‘Why were the old days better than these?’ For it is not wise to ask such questions.

LIVING IN THE PAST HINDERS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14: “Not that I have already attained all this, or have already been made perfect. . . . But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining for what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

95% OF THE BIBLE VERSES ABOUT HOPE REFER TO HEAVEN AND ETERNAL LIFE!

COLOSSIANS 1:5: “Faith and love spring from the HOPE that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the gospel that has come to you.”

TITUS 1:2: “Faith and knowledge rest on the HOPE of eternal life, which

God who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.”

1 JOHN 3:2-3 “But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him. . .
. Everyone who has this HOPE in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”

THE HOPE OF HEAVEN IS THE GUIDING LIGHT THAT PUTS ALL LIFE
IN PERSPECTIVE.

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY STRUGGLING TO FIND HOPE. WE
CHRISTIANS, OF ALL PEOPLE, HAVE THE MESSAGE OF HOPE!

ROMANS 8:23-25: “We eagerly await our adoption as sons. For in this
HOPE we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes
for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not have, we wait
for it patiently.”

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