

“Do You See What I See? HOPE”
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
December 3, 2017---First Sunday of Advent
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Waiting takes forever!!!! The Messiah, the Anointed One had been promised and the people had waited and waited and waited. A lifetime of waiting. In fact generations had waited. I don't know about you but waiting is not my favorite thing.

When I was doing sermon prep at my home office my computer/internet was very slow. I was pumped and ready for to get started on the sermon preparation. As I impatiently waited I heard myself say out loud, “AH come onnnn.”

It is hard to wait---and yet today we begin officially a church season of waiting. Waiting to celebrate the birth of that Messiah. The First Sunday of Advent. The word Advent literally means “To come.” This is the first Sunday of waiting for the Savior to come.

Our verse we are using as a jumping off place is the second part of the verse of 1 Corinthians 1: 7”... **as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

And so we wait. Some homes and families have Advent Calendars where you mark off a day, take a number, open a little window or door. Yes we have a countdown going on.

<http://www.xmasclock.com/>

It's coming. Christmas is coming!!!! I can't wait....but I have to. Yes we all wait. Waiting is tough.

Many of you have experienced waiting in hospital rooms for the doctor to come. Families have waited while a loved one is in surgery. I remember telling someone that waiting is harder for family than the one having surgery....the one having surgery is knocked out with anesthesia the family is left to wait, be anxious, fidget, be nervous, and pace. Sometimes as we wait we get animated loud and can't stop talking. Sometimes we become silent and go into a shell. Sometimes as we wait we pace. We try to read or even watch TV but we are not really comprehending much we are too concerned about waiting. We keep checking the clock in the waiting room. We look at our watch or the time displayed on our Cell phone. How many times

we look at the clock. Wait and look back up at the clock to realize it has only been about 2 minutes since you last checked---but it has seemed soooo long.

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Or perhaps tests are taken, a biopsy is taken and you want to quickly know the results only to be told you'll have to wait 7-10 days. Sometimes you are referred to a specialist only to find out you have to wait a month or more to get an appointment. It is hard to wait.

In one sense we are in God's Waiting Room (**image**). Waiting for God to reveal Himself. Just as we wait for the words, "The Doctor will see you now." We wait not for Jesus to see us, but rather for us to see Jesus. We are waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus and how He revealed Himself to the world.

As we wait we have hope. We hope that the surgery that seems to be going long in not because of complications, but because the surgery got started late.

We hope as we wait for that biopsy or medical report to come back---until we hear the Doctor give us the report. We wait as we await the coming of the Messiah---Baby Jesus.

Lamentations 3:25-26 New International Version (NIV) ²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Our hope is in this One that we are waiting for. And even though scripture says to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord...I get pretty excited. I love Christmas. I love the anticipation. I love the excitement. I love the music (don't forget the powerful Christmas Musical next week at 8:05 and 9:30). Children's Choirs, narration, orchestra, choir!!!! You won't want to miss it! Wait quietly scripture says...that's hard for me to do. Woo-hoo Christmas is coming!

<http://www.xmasclock.com/>

We lit the candle of Hope this morning as we anticipate and wait the birth of the Savior. Sometimes I feel like our world is hopeless. Yet I cannot put my hope in the world.

Sometimes I put my hope in other people and sometimes I am let down and disappointed. You must only put your ultimate hope in Jesus Christ. Everyone, me included will eventually fail you and let you down. Our hope must be centered in Jesus.

I could put my hope in the government----I'm going to pause here groans or laughter. But I know scripture says this

Isaiah 9:6 New Living Translation (NLT) ⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

My hope is the government that rests on HIS shoulders. He is not senator, or governor. Not the president...but He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That is where my hope is.

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Micah 7:7 English Standard Version (ESV) ⁷ But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.

I will wait. I will hope. I want to see Jesus. What do you see? **(Image)** JESUS This optical illusion or eye trick has been around for a long time. But again, I ask, Do you see what I see?

Friends I want you to look for hope this week as you are waiting.

Yes hope in the darkness because a light IS coming.

Yes hope when it seems hopeless, because Jesus is coming.

Yes, hope when the odds are against for the one who breaks the odds and surprises the world is coming. Have hope.

A man approached a little league baseball game one afternoon. He asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, "Eighteen to nothing--we're behind."

"Boy," said the spectator, "I'll bet you're discouraged."

"Why should I be discouraged?" replied the little boy. "We haven't even gotten up to bat yet!"

Have hope!!!!

This week I want you to look for hope. Do you see what I see? Are you seeing hope? I believe as you focus on the real meaning and the real reason of the season you will be able to find and see hope.

Oh you may have to look for it, but I think you will see it.

I would like for you take pictures of hope and post them. Where do you see hope.

Take a picture with mobile phone, ipad, iphone, and upload it to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #phumchope **(images)**

We want to see where you see hope. All those that are posted and tagged with the hastag #phumchope we will be able to collect and next week we will be showing some of those pictures. And then likewise in the following weeks we will have you take pictures of peace, joy and love and mark them with #phumc and then the word peace, joy are love. Please have your pictures taken and posted by Thursday.

Let me get started. I have my iphone here----(take pictures of congregation).

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Scripture says this in Colossians 1:27. "Christ IN you the HOPE of glory." I see in you the hope of Jesus. You are to carry the message of hope. You are to be a light in the darkness. You are to share with the waiting world the Good News of Jesus.

#phumchope

Do you see what I see? (**image**)

Jesus born to die. The Hope of the world.