

30 November 2018

“An Advent Devotional”

Read: Hebrews 1:1-4

Advent begins this coming Sunday. Advent is the Christian season that helps us spiritually prepare for Christmas and the coming of the Christ child. Zechariah 9:12 (NRSV) reminds the faithful: “Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.”

Years ago, researchers staged an experiment to see the effect hope has on those undergoing hardship. The researchers placed two sets of laboratory rats in separate tubs of water. The researchers left one set in the water and found that within an hour they had all drowned. They periodically lifted the other set of rats out of the water and then returned them to the water. When that happened, the second set of rats swam for over 24 hours. Why?

Not because they were given a rest, but because they suddenly had hope! Those animals somehow hoped that if they could stay afloat just a little longer, someone would reach down and rescue them. If hope holds such power for unthinking rodents, how much greater should its effect be on our human lives. Our hope resides in the promise that “in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son” (Hebrews 1:1).

Prayer: “Gracious God, come again and give us the promise of hope in Jesus.” Amen.

Talk time: Ask your children (or consider for yourself) what God thinks about Christmas.

Love during Advent: Let your family make some gifts and visit a home for the aged.

**Come, Worship
Stay, Learn
Go, Serve**