**JESUS CHRIST – THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS.**

 **Text: 1Corinthians 15:19**

 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

1. **OPENING MESSAGE:**

Why do think the rate at which people commit suicide nowadays is alarming? What are the possible causes**?**

* **Misplacement of hope.** People put their hope at a wrong place. They believe that this world will give them hope without knowing that this world is a place of disappointment.
* **Misinterpretation of hope**. People have taken hope to be what it is not. Some think that their hope is fulfilled in acquisition of materialism. That is why so many people pursue it at all cost, but when they didn’t get it, they become frustrated. That was why Satan tempted to put His hope on the provision of bread.
* **Misinformation of hope**. People are not well informed that only Jesus has hope and he alone can give hope to the hopeless.
* Do not be deceived, you most loving friend cannot give you hope.
* Do not be deceived, you best partner has no hope to give you.
* Do not be deceived, your parents cannot confirm your hope.
* Do not be deceived, your mentor cannot assure your hope.
* Do not be deceived, your pastor/prophet/G.O/ cannot give you hope.
* Do not be deceived, your herbalists, your idols cannot give you hope.
* Do you know that academic pursuits and several efforts to be successful are not the assurance of hope?

**Until you find Jesus, the hope of the hopeless, you will keep on been disappointing.**

1. **WHAT IS HOPE?**
* Hope has only one definition. The bible has defined hope for us. Any other definition is false.
* In **1Corinthians 15:19**, the bible says; *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*
* That is where we get the definition of hope.
* Therefore, hope is BLESSED ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.
* If you are saved, you are hopeful but if you are not saved you are hopeless.
* Imagine, when a totally blind hymnist (Franny Crossby) found her hope in salvation, she sang thus:

 **Hymn R.H. 370**.

 **Blessed assurance, Jesus is Mine!**

 **Oh what a foretaste of glory, divine!**

 **Heir of salvation, purchase of God,**

 **Born of His Spirit, wash’d in His blood**

 *This is my story, this is my song*

 *Praising my savior all the day long*

 *This my story, this is my song*

*Praising my savior all the day long*

1. **THE STORY OF A WOMAN WHO TRULY FOUND HOPE IN JESUS.**

 **Luke 7:11-15**

11 And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

**It was a true story. It wasn’t a fiction or a parable. The story goes thus:**

* Jesus went to a city called Nain
* Nain was a small village of a few populations.
* In such village, hardly you find hope when you are hopeless.
* There was a widow in the village whose only son was dead.
* The only son of a widow died. You can imagine:
* A widow. She had no husband and she was above age of getting remarried.
* She had no other children elsewhere.
* She got the only son at her early age, because the son had become a man as at the time he died. **Luke 11:12.**
* The woman got a son (not a daughter) and the only son died.
* The law stated that any woman who does not have a male child is not recognised in the society.
* So before the son died, she was recognised, but when the son died, her recognition was terminated.
* The law further stated that a childless woman is an accursed.
* But the one whose child dies and could not produce another is mostly miserable.
* So the life of the woman (when her son died) went from **accursed** to **miserable.**
* It was not only her son that was dead; the hope of the woman was also dead.
* There were people around her who could have brought the hope back, but they couldn’t.
* **Who are those?**
* The relatives of her husband.
* The friend and contemporary of the husband. They could have helped to demonstrate the love they had for the husband when he was alive.
* The relatives of the woman. They too could have done something to express compassion for their hopeless daughter.
* The neighbour too were very much available to resuscitate the hope of the woman, behold they could not do anything.
* The village chief too heard of the incident. But he could not use his position to bring hope back to the hopeless widow.
* Why those groups of people were not able to give hope back to this widow?
* Was the widow wicked? No!
* Was her late husband wicked? No!
* Was the dead man too wicked? No!
* What then is the answer?
* Those people could not give hope to the woman because they too lacked hope.
* That is why people always say: You cannot give a thing you don’t have.
* Do you aware that, your friends, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, bosses cannot give you hope?
* Do you know that no government of any nation can give you hope?
* They cannot because they too are hopeless.
* But when Jesus came across the hopeless widow, immediately, He gave her hope back. This was possibly because only Jesus is the custodian of hope and He alone can give hope to the hopeless
1. **RIGHT NOW JESUS IS AVAIBLABE TO GIVE HOPE FREELY TO THE HOPELESS.**
* Are you tired of living?
* Are you depressed? Are you seriously hurt and downcast?
* Are you a heart-broken person?
* Are overwhelmed with troubles?
* Are you overwhelmed with sorrows?
* Are you always been disappointed at the verge of final success?
* Are you totally confused?
* Are you a drug addicted person?
* Are you into armed robbery because all doors are closed?
* Are you into cultism because you think you can therein make it?
* Are you overwhelmed with shame because you are indebted?
* Are you overwhelmed with shame because you are barren or unable to marry?
* Are you an orphan?
* Are you into prostitution because you want to live?
* Are you totally fed up because your life is not progressing?
* Are you deciding suicide because your life seems un-meaningful?
* Do you lose your child, husband, wife or parent, and it looks as if there is no hope anymore?
* Do you lose several millions of naira on business without achieving the aim?
* Does it seem as if there is no hope for you anymore?
* Are you betrayed by somebody you trust?

 I ASSURE YOU THAT JESUS IALONE CAN GIVE YOU HOPE.

 **HOW TO CALCULATE THE EXACT TIME OF THE SEOCOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.**

 **Text: Acts 1: 10 -11**

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

1. **OPENING MESSAGE:**
* It seems as if so many people do no longer believe in the second coming of Jesus anymore. **Why so?** It is simply because the majority have exhausted their tarrying period and they concluded that Jesus is no longer coming. **Behold, it is no so!**
* Second coming of Jesus can be simply explained with the illustration of three major farming periods.
1. **The ploughing period** – The period when the farmer needs to choose a fertile ground and also to plough it. So, Jesus chose the earth where souls are very much available unlike other planets.
2. **The sowing period** – The period when the farmer needs to choose the good seed to *sow*. Jesus came the first time, He made Himself the seed for the redemption of mankind.
3. **The harvest period** – the period of when the farmer has *to separate the wheat from* the chaff. So, harvest period is when Jesus needs to come back to harvest the crops of the seed he sowed over 2000 years back.
4. **THERE ARE FOUR QUESTIONS MEANT FOR THIS DISCUSSION.** They are:
5. Where is He coming to?
6. How His coming will be?
7. When will He come?
8. Why He is coming?

These answers to the above questions are stated below:

* **WHERE is He coming back to?**

At His first coming; He came to the earth. So at His second coming, He is coming back to this planet. He is not coming back to the moon because; He did not die for the moon. He is not coming back to the Mars, Jupiter, Satum, Uranus because He did die for them.

However, some creatures may be in those planets; but they are not redeemed. Only those on earth are redeemed. He came to the earth the first time, He’s coming back to earth the second time. So if you are on earth and you are not saved, you are the most unfortunate.

* **HOW His coming will be?**

This is simple and not logic at all.Two angels who were present when Jesus was ascending to Heaven on mount Olives said: “*will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."* **Acts 1:11** There were appearance of two angels at the ascension of Jesus Christ to Heaven. One came to bear witness with the other. So their witnesses were true.

Now, for a clear understanding, let us consider How Jesus ascended to Heaven. He ascended with body not only in the spirit. **This means** Jesus’s body did not decay. It was not remained in the tomb after His resurrection. He ascended to Heaven physical as if someone is climbing a ladder to the top.On getting to Heaven, He needed heavenly body. So he took upon himself the His heavenly body which he left when coming to earth and kept the earthly body for His second coming. In Heaven, presently, the body is kept somewhere for the second coming.So, at His second coming, He will come physically, gloriously, in His size, stature, and complexion and no longer like as a babe in the manger.

As eyes saw Him going up to Heaven, so every eye will see him coming back to the earth.

He will come back in glory. At His first coming, He came to the world alone and ascended to Heaven alone. But at His second coming, many angels will follow Him among which one will blow the trumpet to announce His arrival.

* **WHEN will He come?**

So many people predicted the time of His coming but they failed. The bible says: **Matt 24:36** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

Jesus said the date, no man, even the angels of Heaven know not. But He said, only His father knows the time. This means Jesus also knows the time, because whatever His father knows, He knows it. Amazingly, He gave the preceding signs of His coming. This shows clearly that He knows the time.

 That is why, one cannot predict the time of his second coming but one can perceive it.You perceive the time of the second coming of Jesus through the signs given.

The signs of His second coming are in sequential order and they are manifesting sequentially too. The signs of His second coming can be summarised to four ways. They are as follow:

 **Mathew 24: 3-31**.

1. **TROUBLES IN THE WORLD. Mathew 24: 5-8**

The world will not be at rest. Natural disaster like earthquakes, tsunamis, fire disaster will be rampant. Nations will rise against nation. There will be insecurity, so terrorism will be everywhere. The whole world will suffer economic downturn. People will now be looking for solution and that will ginger fake prophets to arise almost everywhere deceiving people in the name of finding solution to the world troubles. **Behold, this is manifesting, however that is not the time of His second coming.**

1. **TROUBLES IN THE CHURCH. Mathew 24: 9-14**

The church will be brutally persecuted. The world will rise against the Church. The government will not be favourable to the church. The Church herself will rise against one another. There will no longer be true unity in the Church. The Church will scatter. Everybody will want to be on his own as if it were so before. Through that, the rate of fake prophets will be more alarming!

That is manifesting now. Yet the time of His second coming is not even now, but a bit closer - the quarter-final.

1. **TROUBLES OF ABOMINATIONS. Mathew 24: 15-28**

Which one is this? This is the third sign. Troubles of abominable things. This means,Gay marriage will be introduced. Bestiality will be permitted. Baby factory will be everywhere. Sexual abuses will be so rampant. Godliness will no longer be practised.Manifestations of abominations will make the Church godless and powerless. However, it is not yet the time but much more closer – the semi-final.

1. **TROUBLES IN THE SKY. Mathew 24: 29-31**

This is the last sign. What is the sign? The light of the sun will begin to close down. The stars will be falling down one by one like a building that is to fall which the debris is falling down gradually. The power that suspends the firmament be shaken seriously. Great fear will come upon the people of the earth. And in the process the sky will open, and Jesus will appear.

**Out of the four signs, the first three has vividly manifested. It remains only one. So, who says, Jesus is no longer coming. He is about to appear in the sky!**

* **WHY is He coming?**

He is coming to take **only**; **only**, I say **only** those who are His. When the world will no longer be able to withstand high degree of troubles in the world, then, Jesus will appear. He will come to recuse only His children. That is those who are saved.

1. **THOSE WHO JESUS WILL NOT RESCUE AT HIS SECOND COMING EXCEPT THEY REPENT.**
* Those who after they have married, they still go somewhere to have a concubine.
* Those who are blood relation, and yet they commit sexual affairs with each other.
* Those who sleep with their staff, workers, co-inhabitants, neighbours, church members, business partners.
* Those who practise sexual abuse. e.g, masturbation, cyber-sex, homosexuality etc
* The prostitutes. The liar. Those who bear false witness against their brother.
* The backbiter. Those who destroy others with their tongues.
* The thieves, those who steal church money, company’s money or any property that does not belong to you.
* The cheaters. Those who cheat their customers with false scales.
* The unfaithful. Those who are unfaithful to God; spouse, boss etc
* Those who add other powers to the name of God.
* Those who dress in an indecent way.
* Those who commit abortions deliberately.
* Those who engage in baby factory business.
* Those who commit fornication and adultery.
* Those who refuse to surrender their life to Jesus.

**Repent today, Jesus is coming back!**