

## HOPE: "The Waiting Room"

November 28, 2010

**Romans 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**HOPE is the heart's longing for future good.**

**Questions:** What do you hope for? What keeps hope alive?  
Hope means waiting, but what purpose does waiting serve?

**MESSAGE: *Waiting exposes our hearts & delivers us to God.***

**TEXT: Luke 1:1-25** Zechariah & Elizabeth

**I. Heart-sick (vs. 5-7)** barren, afraid, disappointed, ashamed.

Prov. 13:12 *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick..."*

**II. Heart set on God (6, 8-10)** persistent obedience

Romans 5:2-5 *Suffering, perseverance, character, hope*

**III. Heart touched by God's presence & promise (11-17)**

Hebrews 6:19-20 *We experience Jesus behind the veil.*

Hebrew word for Hope *tiqvah* means "a cord".

From *quavah* meaning "twisted and bound together."

Same Hebrew word translated "wait" in Isaiah 40

***We're bound together with hope to a good God.***

Eccls. 4:12 *"A cord of three strands is not easily broken."*

Ps. 33:20; 42:11 *Put your hope IN God!*

Lam. 3: <sup>19</sup> *I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.* <sup>20</sup> *I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.* <sup>21</sup> *Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:* <sup>22</sup> *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.* <sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness* <sup>24</sup> *I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."* <sup>25</sup> *The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;* <sup>26</sup> *it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

**Application: *What does God want to deliver to your heart this Christmas in his "waiting room" of hope? Ask him?***