



THE HOPE OF *Immanuel*

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Notes:

For further study

Monday: Read Matthew 1.20–23 (referring to Isaiah 7.14). Take some time to reflect on the reality of “God with us.” How will you celebrate God’s presence through the Incarnation this Christmas season?

Tuesday: Read Acts 23.6; 24.15; 26.6–7. Does it surprise you that Paul’s hope is in the resurrection, rather than a spiritual existence in “heaven?” What difference does it make for your faith?

Wednesday: Read Romans 4.18–25. What is the relationship of faith and hope, as illustrated in the life of Abraham? How have you experienced the connection of faith and hope in your own life?

Thursday: Read Romans 5.1–5. How is it possible that suffering could actually increase one’s hope? Have you ever experienced suffering and found your hope stronger as a result?

Friday: Read 2 Corinthians 3.12–18. Has your hope in Christ made you bold in sharing your faith with others? If not, why not, do you think?

Saturday: Read Titus 2.11–14. How has your hope in Christ’s return changed your life? Has this hope affected your decisions, your actions, your attitude? If not, do you think your hope is truly in Christ? Or is your hope in something else?