Introduction: The message of Jesus is hope

19 that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV)

- You have been forgiven
- You are wanted
- You are completely understood
- You have a gift

The big question: Where’s your hope today?
2 Sources of hope

The Context:

The apostle Paul contrasted his “false hopes” of:

- Past success
- Education
- Status
- Wealth
- Personal morality

with the “true hope” of:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Purpose found through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ

Paul admits he is far from perfect, but is passionately pursuing Christ and experiencing daily His transforming power and hope.
Paul’s Plea: Choose the hope that delivers life

The Command: You must “_____________ _____________” your hope every day.

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3:17 (NASB)

Reason #1: Because “false hopes” deliver ________________________.

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

Philippians 3:18-19 (NLT)

Reason #2: Because “true hope” delivers ________________________.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)
Discussion Questions:

1. What new insight did you glean from today's message?

2. If only your behavior could speak, what would it say about “where you place your hope”?

3. How does the life of Paul help you see the power of placing your hope fully in Christ?

4. What “next step” do you need to take to experience the hope God offers? Who could help you take that step?