



Week beginning Mar 26th

God's purposes are unchanging

God does not change, so we can trust his faithfulness to fulfil his promises and to accomplish his plans.

? How can we be certain of this? Look up Numbers 23:19, Psalm 33:11, Psalm 119:90, Isaiah 46:10-11, Hebrews 6:17-20, Titus 1:1-3

We're going to explore 2 aspects of God's purposes i) the certainty of the Christian hope and ii) the certainty of his Kingdom being established.

1. The certainty of the Christian hope

Jesus Christ—God incarnate—is, “the same yesterday and today and forever” Hebrews 13:8. This means that we can trust that Jesus will continue to save those who trust in him because, “he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” Hebrews 7:25. We can place our hope and trust in Jesus because he will maintain his character and fulfil his promises forever.

Our confident hope rests on the promises of God and this hope fills our lives. This world is in God's hands. He is working out his purposes & his ways are higher than ours. Psalm 42:11 encourages us: “Put your hope in God.”

? Read 1 John 3:2-3 and 1 Peter 1:3-9. What do these verses tell us about the sure hope of heaven and of Jesus' return?

God knows the future, and His desires will be accomplished. Even when things, from our perspective, seem chaotic and out of control, we can rest in the assurance that God is still in charge. Our presupposition in life, based firmly on the hope we have in Christ, is that God is greater than all.

? How does it change our lives to know that we are a pilgrim people heading home?

2. The certainty of God's Kingdom being established

Just before Jesus died, he cried out "It is finished!"(or accomplished) – John 19:30.

? **What is the significance of this in terms of God's Kingdom?**

Read Matthew 5:1-12

A quote from one of TBC's small group facilitators: "We should live our purpose now ... it's not only a destination, it's a way of living."

? **In what ways do Jesus' words in Matthew 5 overturn the world's values?**

? **List the blessings in this passage that belong to members of God's Kingdom. Think specifically about your areas of work & concern. How can we best put into practise Jesus' attitudes to those around us?**

Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."
Mark 16:15

? **Where does the balance lie in practice for you, between spreading the good news with words and in giving practical service.**

? **Which is easier – to speak to a complete stranger about Jesus, or to someone you know? Which seems to be the most effective, and why?**

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

? **Like Jesus, Christians can't avoid controversy. What do you think are some of the pressing issues of our time that need to be faced in the name of Jesus?**

Using this passage as a prompt, pray together that we would be faithful in the ministry God has called us to. Give thanks for his powerful word and for the hope that lights our future. Give God thanks for his faithfulness – seen in generations past, but also in our experience today.

"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." Romans 15:13