

THE ADVANTAGE

Part 4: The Hope Advantage

LIVING FOR GOD HAS IT'S ADVANTAGES

- ❖ **The two key areas**
 - ◆ Improving the quality of your life
 - ◆ Making you a better person
- ❖ **Our need for hope - a confident favorable expectation**
 - ◆ To love and be loved
 - ◆ That life will hold something good
 - ◆ That there is a life beyond this time on earth
- ❖ **God understands our craving for hope (*Romans 15:13 NKJV*)**
 - ◆ Joy and peace are byproducts of genuine hope
 - ◆ Hope is a byproduct of what we believe

EIGHT DAYS WITHOUT HOPE (*John 20:24-29 NKJV*)

- ❖ **Thomas was given some really good news**
 - ◆ Jesus was alive - they had seen Him
 - ◆ This confirmed what He had said to them before the cross
- ❖ **Thomas made a decision - not to believe**
 - ◆ He had seen what happened to Jesus
 - ◆ He had been impacted by the emotions of losing Jesus
 - ◆ He did not just want to see but to touch - not willing to get his hopes up
- ❖ **Eight days without hope**
 - ◆ The other disciples were excited - expecting to see Jesus again
 - ◆ The other disciples were looking at the future with a risen Savior
- ❖ **Jesus corrects Thomas**
 - ◆ He did not correct him with sickness or punishment
 - ◆ Just an admonishment to not limit his life to only what he could see and feel

THE ADVANTAGE OF HOPE IS AVAILABLE TO YOU

- ❖ **God is still the God of hope**
 - ◆ His Holy Spirit is still at work in hearts causing hope to live
 - ◆ His Word is still our most consistent source of hope (*Romans 15:4 NKJV*)
- ❖ **Find promises that give you hope**
 - ◆ Promise of God's help and strength (*Isaiah 41:10 NKJV*)
 - ◆ Promise of God's wisdom for life (*James 1:5 NKJV*)
- ❖ **Your hope is not limited to this life**
 - ◆ Through Jesus we have the hope of eternity with Him (*Philippians 1:23 NKJV*)