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“Hope for the Lost, Part 1”  
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*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10*

Jesus provides real **hope** for **lost** people.

*“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”*  
I Peter 3:15

I. Sharing hope is our **responsibility**.

*“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord...”*

*“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”* Matthew 28:18-20

II. Sharing hope needs to be supported by **evidence**.

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have...”*

*“If anyone else thinks he has reason to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”* Philippians 3:4-8

III. Sharing hope happens within **relationships**.

*“But do this with gentleness and respect...”*

*“Let no debt remain outstanding, except for the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law...Love does no harm to his neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”* Romans 13:8,10

Helping the lost to be found is cause for a great **celebration**.

*“But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”* Luke 15:32