

# HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR!

## John 1:19-37

INTRODUCTION: Having hope in the future is indeed a golden feeling. We look at the Bible characters of old as men and women of unshakable faith, but in reality they were very much just like most of us. Acts 15:36-41. John the Baptist is given to us as a man who was a great optimist who became a pessimist. Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1-3; John 3:22-36; Matthew 11:2-6. Yes, John who baptized Jesus and saw the spirit descending upon him doubted. We too can become pessimistic: Isaiah 55:8-9.

### I. PESSIMISM HAS A BAD MEMORY!

Romans 15:4. We must review over and over God's great acts of faithfulness so that we do not lose hope. Psalm 92:12-15; 2 Chronicles 16:9. Our God is faithful and blesses us every day. Jeremiah felt he had lost hope as God's judgment fell on his people but then he remembered God's faithfulness in the past and hope sprang up anew. Lamentations 3:7-26. We must learn that God disciplines those He loves and if we learn from God's discipline we will harvest righteousness and peace: Hebrews 12:11.

### II. PESSIMISM IS NEARSIGHTED!

We must look forward in faith. Yes outwardly the things we can see many not look good but the just shall live by faith. We are encouraged in God's Word to live by faith not by sight: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; John 14:1-3.

### III. PESSIMISM IS FEARFUL!

When our hope dies, despair is born in our hearts. In pessimism we lose our hope and no longer expect improvement. Our Lord pressed on even toward the cross because He looked forward to its promise: Hebrews 12:1-2. So often we fear the very things our Lord wishes to use to bless our lives: 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

### IV. PESSIMISM DOWNGRADES ZEAL INTO RESIGNATION!

When we look at life as pessimist we lose our hope that could bring success from failure. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; John 11:7-16. Are we here only waiting to die? Are we still excited about what our God will do next in our lives? Romans 15:13; Romans 5:1-5.