

**Saturday, December 9**

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:22-27

**Text for Today:** Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for an certain of what we do not see.*

Oh, I hope I get a pony! ... I hope my boyfriend give me the gold locket I've hinted about ... I hope my husband doesn't think a clothes dryer is the thing I most want. These are all things I have hoped for in Christmases past, but this year I don't hope for anything that money can buy.

This year my hope for Christmas is to look into the eyes of a baby and see the eyes of an infant born centuries ago and understand His mother's hope for the future.

This year my hope is to look into the eyes of a young boy and see the eyes of a boy standing in an ancient temple, amazing the teachers with his knowledge, and have hope for God's kingdom on earth.

This year my hope is to look into the eyes a common young man and see the eyes of a teacher long ago struggling to make his friends accept the hope of a kingdom not of this earth.

I hope that, in the hustle and bustle, I can find a quiet moment to look at a candle flame and see the Light of the World. I hope that I can ignore the voices of hate and hear the choirs of angels. I hope I can look past the fancy wrapping paper and see the true gift of Christmas.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, Your hope for us is not always our hope for ourselves. In this season of waiting and preparation open our eyes that we may see Jesus Christ as the hope of the world and our only hope. May we come to understand more completely Your will for the world so that we may fulfill it completely. Amen.

***Connie Bordner***