**Lamentations 3:24**

*The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him*

**Focal Truth: Jesus Christ is the believer’s portion & restful hope**

1. **A spiritual confession of restful hope – *the Lord is my portion***
2. The Lord – Yahweh – the covenant God – the God of the new covenant sent His son Jesus Christ to die to give to all who believe the covenant of grace

Jesus death & blood on the cross guarantee the covenant of grace

1. Believers confess the Lord Jesus is my portion

The Lord is my **portion** = my possession, my share, my inheritance

1. He is my inheritance – joint heirs with Christ

Rom. 8:17 *– if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ*…

Eph. 1:11 – *we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will*

Col. 1:12 – *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light*

1 Pet. 1: 3 – 5 - *you have been born again to living hope through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance* *which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved for you in heaven*

1. He is my security - refuge & hiding place

John 10:11 – *I am the good shepherd the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep*

John 10:14 – *I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know*

*Me*

 John 10:27 – 28 - *my sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me,*

 *I give them eternal life and now one will snatch them out of My hand*

1. He is my place of rest

Matt. 11:28 – *come to me all who are weary and heavy – laden and I will give you rest*

1. He is my protection

John 6:37 – 38 - *all that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me, I will certainly not cast out…this is the will of Him who sent Me that all that He has given to Me I will lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.*

1. He is my refreshment

 John 7:37 – *if anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink*

1. **A spiritual confirmation of restful hope – *says my soul***

*The Lord is my portion, says my soul….*

1. The holy lament of suffering expresses to God & itself the pains of the soul

Lam. 3:17 – *my soul has been rejected from peace, I have forgotten happiness*

Lam. 3:20 – *surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me*

1. The saved soul speaks to itself in encouraging faith
2. The saved soul **speaks to itself** while suffering – Jesus Christ is my portion
3. The saved soul **declares to itself** in faith while suffering – Jesus Christ is my portion
4. The saved soul **assures itself** while suffering – Jesus Christ is my portion
5. The saved soul **repeats to itself** while suffering – Jesus Christ is my portion
6. The saved soul **encourages itself** while suffering – Jesus Christ is my portion

**Consider: What are your emotions saying about your suffering?**

 **What are you desires saying about your suffering?**

 **What are your thoughts saying about your suffering?**

1. **A spiritual confidence of restful hope - *therefore I will hope in Him***

*The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him*

1. The hopeful soul expresses confidence in the Lord to itself

**Look at the work of the holy soul in suffering**

3:20 – my soul remembers its suffering

3:21 – my soul recalls hope in God in its sufferings

3:24 – my soul says to itself, the Lord is my portion – I hope in Him

1. The hopefulness of the holy soul in Jesus Christ

Rom. 5:2 – *we exult in the hope of the glory of God*

Rom. 8:24 – *for in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait for it eagerly*

Rom12:12 – *rejoicing in hope*

Rom. 15:4 - *through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope*

Rom. 15:13 – *may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*

Col. 1:27 – *Christ in you the hope of glory*

**Heb. 6:17 – 20** – *in the same way God, desiring even more to show the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope that is before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*

**Consider:**

1. Believers have taken refuge by faith in Jesus Christ who is their portion
2. Believers who have taken refuge in Jesus Christ have strong encouragement to remain heavenly hopeful
3. Believers who have taken refuge in Jesus Christ have hope to anchor their soul in all the trials of this life
4. Believers who have taken refuge in Jesus Christ have their hope in the living Lord Jesus their high priest in heaven

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. When you know Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior you can rest in your trials
2. Restful hope is rises from faith in Jesus Christ
3. All you need for life is Christ!
4. A restful soul speaks encouragement to the soul
5. In Jesus Christ is confident, restful peace in the soul

**The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**