

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hold On to the Gospel until the Last Day

Philippians 2:16

1967 - 2017



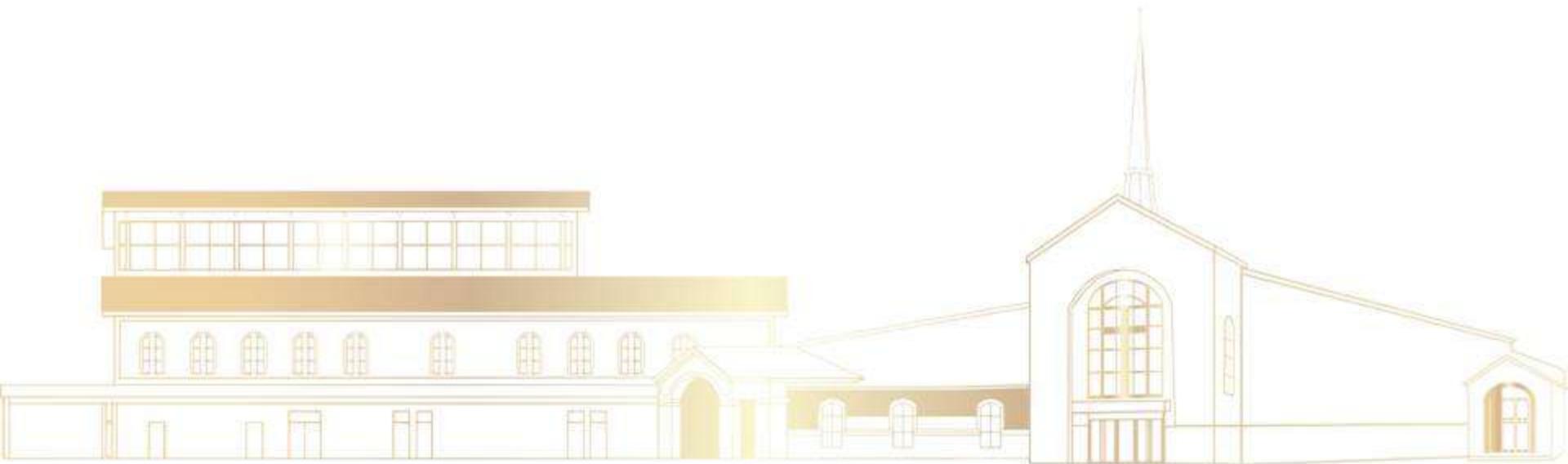


Philippians 2:16

- Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.
- holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

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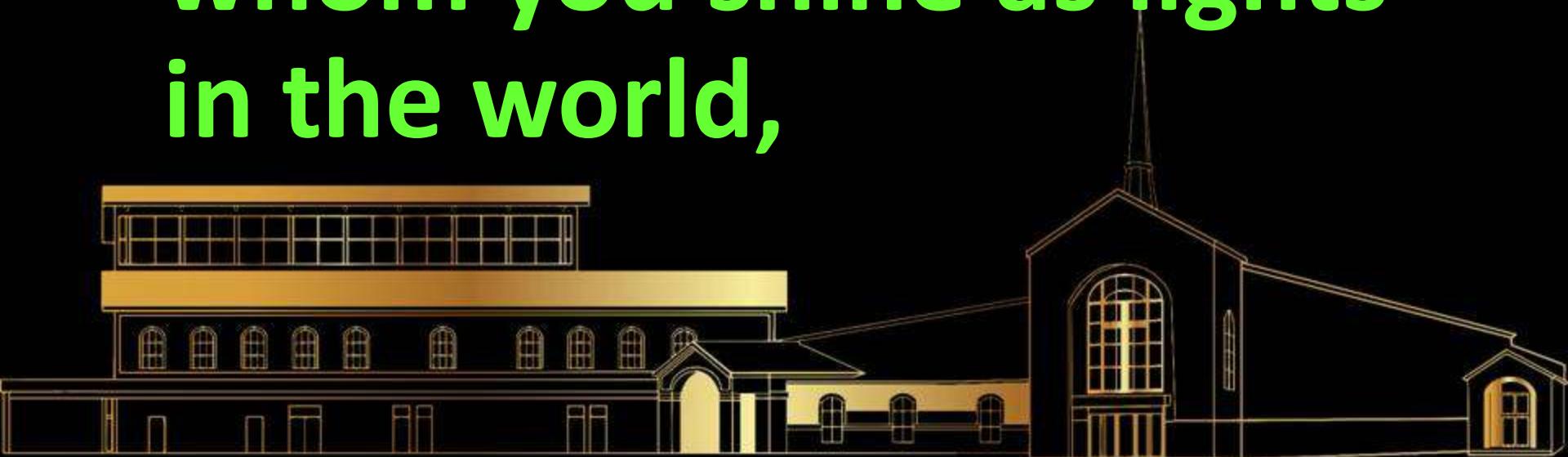
**V. 16 is a continuation
of v. 15**





Philippians 2:15 (ESV)

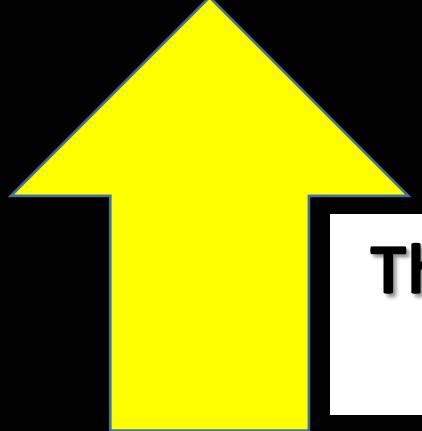
- that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world,**





Philippians 2:16

- **Holding forth the word of life;**
- **holding fast to the word of life,**
- **holding fast the word of life,**
- **by holding on to the word of life**



The NET Bible makes a prepositional connection to v. 15

Commentary

We are not shining as lights in a twisted and perverse society if we are not holding fast to the word of life.

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Agenda

- Holding Fast
- Day of Christ
- Labor In Vain

3 Questions

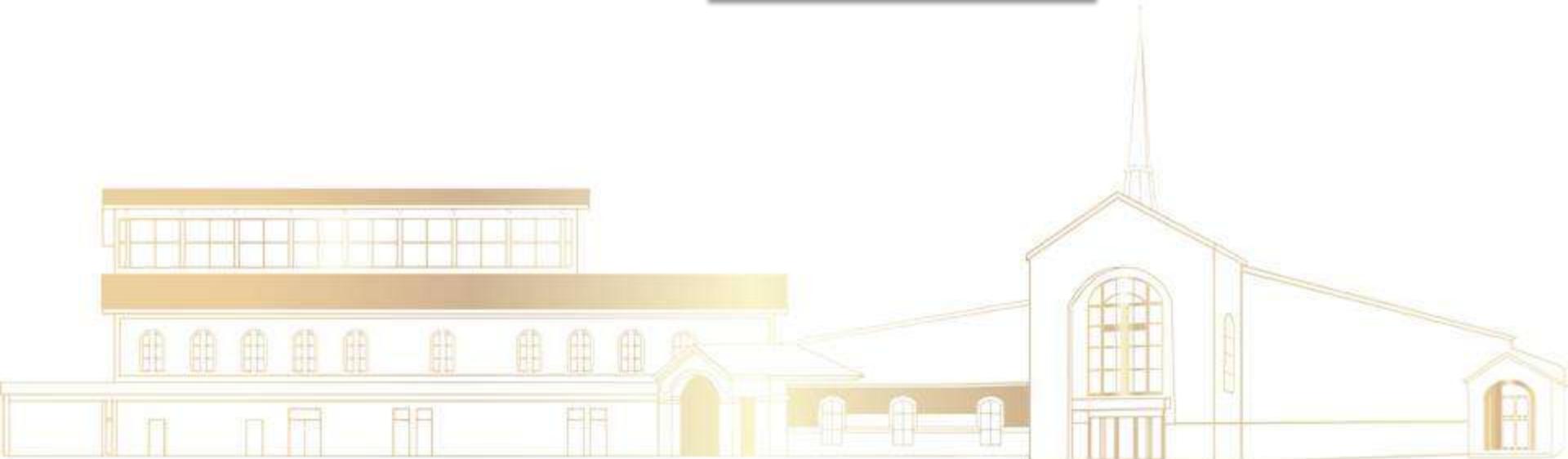
- **What is the word of life?**
- **What does it mean to hold fast to it?**
- **What are the implication for those who don't hold fast?**

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**The ‘life’ Paul is talking
about is eternal life.**



Commentary

We know Paul is talking about eternal life because of his reference to the “day of Christ” v. 16.

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The word of life is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Geneva Bible note on this verse states: The Gospel is called the word of life, because of the effects which it worketh.

Thus Paul is admonishing the believers at the church at Philippi to hold fast to the gospel of Jesus Christ until the end.





Philippians 2:16

- that I may rejoice in **the day of Christ,**
- that I have not run in vain,
neither labored in vain.

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**The eternal fate of all
people is validated at
the day of Christ.**



Some theologians and preachers go to great lengths to create divisions between the day of Christ and the day of the Lord so that they are not the same.

Instead, the days are to be seen as different in purpose and audience. Such that one deals with believers and the other deals with unbelievers.

Furthermore, attempts are made to separate them by time and space (heaven v. the earth).

In my view, this is a completely untenable position.

HERE is WHY:



Romans 2:16

On **that day** when,
according to my gospel,
God judges the secrets of
men by **Christ Jesus.**

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Day of judgment (7x)

Day of the Lord (5x)

Day of Christ (2x)

Day of God (1x)

Day of wrath (1x)

Day of visitation (1x)

Day of redemption (1x)

Day of our Lord Jesus (1x)

Day of God the Almighty (1x)

Day of our Lord Jesus Christ (1x)

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In the Gospels

Neither the day of the Lord of the day of Christ is specifically mentioned instead:

“day of judgment” 4x

“that day”

“the last day” 7x

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Day of Christ

- The Day of Christ is the same as the Day of the Lord referenced in 22x in OT & NT
- The Day of the Lord (Christ) is a future day of judgment and reward
- The sheep are separated from the goats
- Eternal life is granted to those whose name is written in the book of life
- All others receive eternal condemnation

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**Notice Paul's reference
to labor in v. 16.**

**What is he talking
about?**





Philippians 2:16

- **by holding on to the word of life so that on the day of Christ I will have a reason to boast that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.**

What is the only thing that could happen that would make Paul's labor be for nothing or in vain?

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**Some people are going
to be shocked and
devastated on the day
of Christ.**





Matthew 7:22-23

•On **that day** many will say to me, ‘**Lord, Lord**, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Paul's heart screams of concern for the church at Galatia

Turn to
Galatians 3:1 & continue to 4:11

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¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”



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**Paul is greatly concerned
that the Galatians are
leaving the word of life
and going back to the
words of the law.**



Galatians 4:11

I am afraid I may have labored over you **in vain.**

This is the
nightmare
for the
preacher.

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Turn back to Matthew 24

**The day of Christ begins with the
return of Christ as described by
Christ.**

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Matthew 24:3

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

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Matthew 24:36

“But concerning **that day**
and hour no one knows, not
even the angels of heaven,
nor the Son, but the Father
only.

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Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

Reward and Judgment



³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

John 10:26–28 (ESV)

²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.



34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then **the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’**



39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



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Turn over to
John 6
Words of life
The last day

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Context of John 6

- Passover Feast is at Hand
 - Jesus Feeds 5000





John 6:22-25 (ESV)

- **On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone.** ²³
Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ **So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.** ²⁵
When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

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**Jesus is
NOT
concerned
about your
best life
now!**





John 6:26-27 (ESV)

•Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”



John 6:28–29 (ESV)

- Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”
- Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”



John 6:30–33 (ESV)

- 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”



John 6:34–38 (ESV)

- 34 **They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”** 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.



John 6:39-40

- **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.**

40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”



John 6:41-43 (ESV)

• So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.



John 6:44

- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.
- And I will raise him up on the last day.



John 6:47

Jesus:

- **Truly, truly, I say to you,
whoever believes has
eternal life.**



John 6:51

- I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.
- And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”



John 6:54

- **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

**These sayings caused
much consternation
among the Jews.**



John 6:60-61 (ESV)

•When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this?

FF to v. 66



John 6:66-67

- After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
- So Jesus said to the twelve,
 - “Do you want to go away as well?”



John 6:68–69 (ESV)

- Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

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**Is that what you believe?
Do you believe he has the
words of eternal life?**



Application

When you believe that Jesus has the words of life you hold fast or remain firmly committed to those beliefs.

Turn to
1 Corinthians 15 v. 1-3

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1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (ESV)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.



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**The writer of Hebrews
goes overboard
emphasizing the need
to hold fast to the end.**





Hebrews 3:14

- For we have come to share in Christ,
- if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.



Hebrews 4:14

- Seeing then [since] that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,
- let us hold fast *our* profession [confession].



Hebrews 6:18

•That by two immutable things,
in which *it was* impossible for
God to lie, we might have a
strong consolation, who have
fled for refuge to lay hold upon
the hope set before us:

NET Bible



Hebrews 6:18

•so that we who have found refuge in him [Christ] may find strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us through two unchangeable things, since it is impossible for God to lie.



Hebrews 10:23

•And let us **hold**
unwaveringly to the
hope that we
confess, for the one who
made the promise is
trustworthy.



