

## Lamentations 3:19-30 – A glimpse of hope in the midst of destructive chaos

*Written by Reuben Sancken, GC sophomore*

<sup>19</sup>The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! <sup>20</sup>My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. <sup>21</sup>But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” <sup>25</sup>The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. <sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. <sup>27</sup>It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, <sup>28</sup>to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, <sup>29</sup>to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), <sup>30</sup>to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

-----

There are times when everything seems to be going right and other times when everything seems to be going wrong. During those times we can feel so lost and helpless. I feel so saddened when I see people who have messed up priorities and who give up on themselves. I feel helpless when wars continue because of hate and lack of life’s basic necessities. I think about the thoughtless way we are treating the environment. Add our own personal struggles and it is hard to have hope sometimes. When the world and ourselves are broken, how can we have hope?

Lamentations is filled with violent imagery of the destruction of Jerusalem. Yet, through all of this destruction, the writer shares encouraging words of hope. The Lord loves us and is faithful and merciful. The Lord will not leave us to suffer. Jesus helps us through our challenges and saves us time and time again from our brokenness. Many times it takes awhile to heal, but hope and patience are rewarding. I think about the times I’ve said that a circumstance in life will never get better. When I look back at where I was and where I am today, I realize that a situation can turn out better than even what we anticipated. We can have more hope when we let go and trust in God’s love that everything will be okay. This can be hard at times, but we are reassured by God’s promise of love and mercy that will never fail.