

Good morning! The Christian Century magazine was founded at the turn of the 20th Century based on the hopeful idea that people were getting better and better, wars would soon cease, and the kingdom of God was being ushered in all over the globe. The magazine is still in circulation but, having completed the 20th Century, an era of unmatched global barbarism, with the unprecedented violence of two world wars, nuclear stand-offs and ethnic cleansing, the concept is getting to be a pretty hard sell. Where is all that hope now? Does the Bible have anything to say about this? This morning, let's read a short passage together this morning and consider:

For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

If the 20th Century dawned in hope, the 21st Century came in with fear. Remember Y2K? Planes will be falling out of the sky! Power grids will shut down! Everyone's computers will crash! Store food and buy guns to defend it! While those are things that didn't happen, there was still plenty of room for despair. Human trafficking continues to be a booming enterprise all over the globe. People groups are trying to destroy other people groups in Africa. In the Middle East, Muslims are killing other Muslims on the basis that they are not Muslim enough. The battle for dominance continues to move forward. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Jesus' comment that there will always be poor people is being proven day after day. Depressing, right? What kind of world will our grandchildren live in? Is there anything we can hope for? Yes---but we can't legislate or elect it! We must seek the remedy outside of any man-made socio-economic or political process. The answer lies in today's passage: *"God's love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."* This morning, let me encourage you to seek God for the peace you want. You'll never find it in the candidate you are backing or the insurance you're buying or the job you're seeking. Jesus Christ is the only hope for this world...for this life and the next!