Introduction:

A. (Slide #2) Life Has Lots Of Humdrum Day To Day Living, Lots Of Discouragements, Disappointments, And Life Struggles.
   1. For some, it seems such a heavy load.
   
      2. For others, it is frustrating; however, they see a much bigger picture and more purpose for life.

B. (►) Are You An Optimist Or A Pessimist By Personality?
   1. Optimism is an attitude of mind wherein a person tends to focus on the positive side of things rather than the negative side.
      a. The optimist expects the best outcome in situations.
      b. They look for the good in situations or hope that in bad situations things will soon improve.
   
   2. Pessimism is the attitude of mind wherein a person has the tendency to look at life negatively rather than positively.
      a. The pessimist expects a negative outcome in situations; often he looks at the worst possible outcome.
      b. They are likely to see the worst in situations and expect that in good situations things will soon deteriorate and become terrible.
   
   3. Two oft-heard illustrations:
      a. (Slide #3) Do you see a glass half-empty or half-full?
      b. (Slide #4) Lemons or lemonade?
   
   4. These are personality traits and views of life.

C. (Slide #5) Optimism For The Christian Is SO MUCH MORE Than Just Our Personality!
   1. Optimistic AND pessimistic people can still have optimism as Christians.
   
   2. God is not going to approve us or condemn us based upon our personality.
      a. An impetuous extrovert -- Peter
      b. A logical extrovert unafraid of new experiences -- Paul
      c. A caring, empathetic devotee -- Ruth
      d. A determined perseverer -- Noah
      e. A strong-willed, uncompromising, independent loner -- John the Baptist
f. A reserved, insightful, non-attention seeker -- Mary

3. Even though they had very different personalities, they could be very faithful servants of God!

4. He is going to evaluate our lives based upon how we live in accordance with His Will, NOT BY OUR PERSONALITY TYPE!
   a. The standard of judgment -- the Word of the New Testament!
      1. Jn. 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”
      2. Rev. 20:12,13 “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”
   b. We will be judged by our response to that Word in heart and in action!
      1. Rev. 2:23 To the church at Pergamos: “And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”
      2. Col. 3:25 “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”
      3. Gal. 6:7,8 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
      4. II Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
      5. Ecc. 12:14 “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”
      6. Mt. 12:37 “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
   c. Observe that judgment is not based upon personality; it is based upon God’s Word and how each individual lives in accordance to that Word.

D. What Are The Reasons Why Christians Can Have Confident And Indisputable Optimism?

I. (Slide #6) God Can Absolutely Be Trusted!
   A. The Awesome, Holy, All-Sovereign, All-Knowing Living God Is A Father To Christians!
      1. “Our Father in heaven…..” Mt. 6:9
2. Mt. 7:11 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

B. The Blessedness Of Trusting Him!
1. Heb. 13:5 “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
2. Ps. 40:4 “Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.”
3. Ps. 64:10 “The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.”

C. His Word is Truth!
1. Ps. 119:160 “The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”
2. Jn. 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
3. I Jn. 5:13 “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

D. Optimism Of Those Who Trusted God!
1. So, Noah could have optimism in the face of an impending universal Flood! Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:14-22
2. So, Abraham could have optimism as he went up Mt. Moriah: Gen. 22:1-19; Heb. 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”
3. So, Joseph could have optimism in the midst of constant discouragement and see-sawing emotions of downs and ups! Gen. 37,39,40
4. So, Mordecai could have optimism in the midst of Captivity with a death sentenced passed upon the Jews in a foreign land. He knew God’s power; He knew God could spare them! Esther!
5. So, Daniel’s three friends could have optimism even as they faced the fiery furnace! Dan. 3. “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to
the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.’” Dn. 3:16-18

E. We Trust His Sovereign Power In Our Daily Lives!
   1. His care: I Pet. 5:7 “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
   2. His promise to provide for us: Lk. 12:31 “But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.”
      a. Some of you have recently lost your jobs.
      b. HOW can such a one have optimism? We trust our Father!

F. The Power Of Faith In God!
   1. Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
      a. “Substance” -- guarantee; certainty
      b. “Evidence” -- proof
   2. I Jn. 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.”

II. (Slide #7) Jesus, The Savior, Cares For Us!
   A. Quoting Is. 7:14, The Angel Told Joseph: “‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ 22So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” Mt. 1:21-23

   B. His IS The Son Of God And Savior!
      1. Jn. 3:14-16 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
      2. He has provided COMPLETE forgiveness! Heb. 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
C. His Offer Of Salvation.
   1. Mk. 16:15,16 “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’

   2. Paul told the jailer and his family: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Ac. 16:31

D. Jesus’ Promise: Jn. 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

E. His Care For Us -- Intercedes In Heaven For Us! Rom. 8:34 “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

III. (Slide #8) The Holy Spirit Is Trustworthy!
   A. He Has Revealed To Us The Mind Of The Godhead! I Cor. 2:10-13 “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

   B. He Revealed And Inspired The Word!
      1. II Tim. 3:16 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”

      2. II Pet. 1:21 “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

      3. We should hold the Holy Spirit is HIGH esteem and appreciate Him so much that we have the Word and know Heaven’s Will!

   C. His Care For Us -- Intercedes In Heaven For Us! Rom. 8:27 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
IV. (Slide #9) The Support/Love Of Brethren.
A. You Are Not In This Struggle Together!
   1. Make sure you do not turn inward, refuse the love and support of your brethren, and their prayers and encouragements!
   2. DO NOT FACE TROUBLES ALONE!
   3. Sadly, many Christians draw inward and do not avail themselves of the amazing support that the Lord has provided.
B. Fellowship Is So Supportive! Ac. 2:46,47 “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people.”
C. Brethren Care For Each Other!
   1. Gal. 6:2 “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
   2. Gal. 6:10 “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
D. Make Sure You Avail Yourself Of The Amazing Love And Support That God Has Placed Around You In The Church!

V. (Slide #10) The Power Of Hope!
A. Heb. 6:19 “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.”
B. Hope Is Different From Optimism!
   1. Optimism is an attitude of a person’s personality.
   2. Hope is based upon the Trustworthiness of the Godhead!
C. Christians Have Hope In Face Of Death!
   1. Jn. 11:25 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’”
   2. What a blessing: Optimism as I face death!
D. Christians Have Hope About Eternal Life In Heaven!
   1. Christian Grace: II Pet. 1:10,11 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.:

   2. God promises us: “If you remain faithful, I will provide you a home in Heaven.”

E. Our Hope:
   1. We trust Jesus and His Blood for redemption! Hymn: “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less Than Jesus Blood And Righteousness!” Chorus: “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand!”

   2. We anticipate seeing Jesus “Face to Face!”

   3. A perfect eternal home!
      a. Rev. 21:4 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
      b. Because of Jesus, we have this amazing hope: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” I Pet. 1:3,4

(Slide #11) Conclusion:
   A. Protect Your Optimism!
      1. Stay faithful!
         a. Jesus’ promise: Rev. 2:10 “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
         b. We can say with Paul: “II Tim. 4:7,8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

      2. Cherish your life in Jesus and the success that it gives as we face life!
         a. Phil 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
         b. Phil. 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
B. (►) Yes, We All Have Different Personalities; Thank God We Can Live For God No Matter Who We Are.

C. And Thank God We Can Have Optimism Spiritually Now And For Eternity Not Based Upon Our Personality, Whether Optimistic Or Pessimistic, But Based Upon The Godhead And Who They Are!

D. (►) As We Face Our Own Personalities And Life’s Struggles, May We All Say With The Apostles, “Increase Our Faith.” Lk. 17:5