

# Hope Now: Reclaiming Innocence - *George Stull*

**Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Two Basic Ways To Approach Life:**

1.) The way of \_\_\_\_\_.

2.) The way of \_\_\_\_\_.

**[At any given moment, and on any given day,  
each of us chooses these many times.]**

**Innocence: a choice to see \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **A Couple Observations of...**

### **• How we can approach God in innocence.**

**Matthew 18:1-5** <sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>He called a little child, whom he placed among them. <sup>3</sup>And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, whoever takes a humble place—becoming like this child—is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

**Matthew 19:13-15** <sup>13</sup>Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." <sup>15</sup>When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

### **• How God approaches us after we have “blown it and failed!”**

**John 21:15-19** <sup>15</sup>When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." <sup>17</sup>The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup>Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"