1. We live in a **hope-challenged** world.

**TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF SECULAR PEOPLE**

1) Are essentially **ignorant** of basic Christianity.

2) Are seeking **life before death**.

3) Are conscious of **doubt** more than **guilt**.

4) Have a **negative** image of the Church.

5) Secular people have multiple **alienations**.

6) Secular people have a hard time **trusting**.

7) Secular people have **low self-esteem**.
8) Secular people experience forces in history as “out of control.”

9) Secular people experience forces in personality as “out of control.”

10) Secular people cannot find “the door.”

2. Hope is founded on our trust in God’s love, wisdom and care (Jeremiah 29:10, 11; Jeremiah 2:11-13; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 8:28-39; 1 Peter 1:3-7)

3. Hope is nurtured by sustaining our spirits in prayer and with God’s Word (Jeremiah 29:12, 11).

4. Hope powers our missional witness and engagement with those around us.

5. Application: We lead hope-fueled lives by relying on God’s Word and trusting God’s promises in spite of appearances and in spite of our desires.